

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Prepare to meet Mr Kilfeather, the neighbour you simply cannot love. He keeps a doberman; cuts down trees; and worst of all plays James Last records at full volume. Mr Kilfeather will bring back painful memories for anyone who has ever had neighbours, so tomorrow's Modern Times column is not for readers of a nervous disposition. On the election front, Michael Pinto-Duschinsky analyses how a short, sharp battle like the present one makes a difference. In the Books Page Anthony Quinton discusses the Singer brothers, Fiona MacCarthy on names, Andrew Sinclair on fiction, Peter Jones on translation, Paul Brker on Presidents, John Russell Taylor on Hitchcock.

Prime case woman ends silence

The woman who acted as a referee for Geoffrey Prime, the spy, broke a five-day silence in a press conference. She said the Security Commission report which accused her of disgraceful conduct was a whitewash to cover up for the incompetence of the security services. Page 3

Modest rises

Farm price rises, averaging a modest 4.2 per cent, agreed by the EEC agriculture ministers will put a third of a penny on the British loaf, 2p on cheese and 1.5p on a kilo bag of sugar, the Consumers Association reckons. EEC farm prices, 11

Record bid

BTR has increased its bid for Thomas Tilling to £664m, making Britain's biggest takeover bid still bigger. But Sir Patrick Measey, Tilling's managing director, said the offer was "still totally unacceptable". Page 19



Kenya crisis

President Moi of Kenya has ordered parliamentary elections in September, a year before they are due, after the political crisis over alleged foreign support for an unnamed rival candidate. Page 11

Nurse 'murder'

Mr John Gurnell, the West Yorkshire County Council leader, claims that photographs taken by Saudi police prove that Helen Smith, the nurse who died during a murder, was murdered. An inquest in Leeds returned an open verdict. Page 3

Radio challenge

Capital Radio will be challenged for the London commercial radio contract by a consortium headed by Sir Peter Parker, who has been appointed chairman of Metropolitan Radio. Page 3

Pocket TV

A two-inch television set which can be used almost anywhere is being launched by the Japanese firm Sony in a fortnight. Back Page

Voting rights

A Bill to give British people living in the Irish Republic full voting rights was formally launched in the Dail.

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Letters: On debt crisis, from Mr M. M. Guerrero; BBC, from Dr C. G. Veljanovski and Mr W. D. Bishop; and Mr Bernard Braden.

Leading articles: Cabinet government; Kenya. Features, pages 14-16
Bernard Levin identifies the real issue; Agony in the Andes; Jock Bruce-Gardyne joins the election columnists. Spectrum: Conducting the one-man Steel band. Wednesday Page: Joanna Lumley's diary; Mixed-race adoption; The Times Cook.

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Mona Vangasne, Professor Keith Stewenson.

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EEC summit off but Thatcher will go to America

● The Prime Minister is to attend the Williamsburg summit, but the Stuttgart summit has been postponed until after the election.

● The battle between Labour's national executive and the Brent East party has been settled in favour of Mr Reginald Ffrench (Page 5)

● Mr Michael Heseltine renewed his charge that the CND was led by the left, "whether Labour, Socialist or Communist".

● Tory party workers were warned by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to expect a rough passage and to stay calm (Page 5)

● Mr Michael Foot accused the Conservatives of condemning most young people to menial subservience by five years on the dole.

● Mr Denis Healey said that a Labour Government would renounce Polaris only if the Soviet Union made adequate concessions.

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A potential hazard was removed from Mrs Margaret Thatcher's path yesterday when the Stuttgart summit of European Community heads of government, planned for June 6 to 7, was postponed until after the general election.

It was also confirmed that the Prime Minister would attend the western economic summit at Williamsburg, Virginia, during the spring bank holiday weekend in the middle of the campaign. But her visit will be even shorter than expected.

Mrs Thatcher, accompanied by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will fly by VC 10 to Williamsburg for the opening of the summit on the afternoon of Saturday, May 28. She will return to Britain the following evening, leaving Sir Geoffrey and Mr Pym to represent the Government at the Monday session, immediately after which they will fly back.

It is expected, though not confirmed by Downing Street, that Mrs Thatcher will return on an ordinary scheduled flight.

The postponement for two weeks of the Stuttgart summit

by Dr Helmut Kohl, West German Chancellor and president of the Council of Ministers, was welcomed by Mrs Thatcher but it was emphasized on her behalf that she had not requested it.

If it had gone ahead the summit would have been discussing, 48 hours before the election, the question of Britain's 1983 rebate from the Community budget.

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Community budget, and the more complex issue of long-term changes to the budget structure.

No agreement was guaranteed and it is known that some of the Prime Minister's advisers were worried at the prospect of so unpredictable a meeting taking place close to polling day.

A failure to obtain the expected rebate would have

been seized by the Labour Party as ammunition for its EEC withdrawal policy, and Mrs Thatcher would have been criticised for not defending Britain's interests.

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's deputy leader, anticipated the postponement yesterday morning at his party's press conference when he accused the Prime Minister of "committing every professional fool in the book" to put off announcements of bad news until after June 9.

"Because there is no chance of the Common Market giving her the rebate she said she had already been promised, the Government is begging them to put off the Common Market summit too," he said.

Before yesterday's formal announcement of the postponement, Mrs Thatcher had indicated to reporters that she would not have gone. It would have been extremely difficult to leave the country in the last week of the campaign. "A general does not leave the field of battle when coming up to the climax," she said.

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Heseltine renews CND attack

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday returned to his attack on the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament as an organization led and dominated by the left.

In a letter to Conservative candidates, he said CND had reacted with indignation to his statement that most of the elected council members were of the left or the extreme left, "but they did not deny the figures that lay behind my statement".

"It now emerges that a clear majority of the executive which is the body which meets monthly to run CND is also of the left, whether Labour, socialist or communist". It was clear, he said, that they were led by men and women of the left.

The CND's general election pact, sent to local groups, was "transparently designed to focus the CND attack on the Conservative Party".

It was specifically hostile to the Prime Minister "and its sympathies are clearly revealed by the conclusion that 'the possibility that Labour would do substantially worse vis-a-vis the Conservatives than in 1979 is too awful to contemplate'".

The document admitted that CND had lost the argument for one-sided disarmament, he said, advising its activists to concentrate on the deployment of Cruise and Trident, "where they think the public will give them a better hearing".

Monsignor Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said last night Mr Heseltine was overreaching himself in his attacks on CND. "Last time of the 14 people he named the only crime claim that they were committed to was simply being members of the Labour Party".

The letter, he said, was "silly", implying CND's activities were secret. The campaign's aim was complete nuclear disarmament, but Cruise and Trident were the immediate priorities.

Healey's new line on Polaris

By Anthony Davies, Political Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey yesterday suggested that the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament supported his new definition of Labour's non-nuclear defence policy; the refusal to use nuclear weapons as a first-strike defence.

Labour's deputy leader said for the first time at the start of the election campaign that a Labour government would only renounce Polaris "if we got adequate concessions from the Soviet Union". He said that he was doubtful about Labour commitments to cut defence spending because they would increase reliance on nuclear weapons. A non-nuclear defence policy, he added, meant "a conventional deterrent against conventional attack".

Having already stated views that would have certainly embarrassed Mr Foot, Mr Healey rubbed salt into the policy wound at the party's daily election press conference in London, when he cited the views of CND in aid of his argument.

Asked by The Times: "How do you have a non-nuclear defence policy if you maintain Polaris?" Mr Healey said: "Our purpose is to move the whole of the (Western) Alliance towards a policy which does not depend on the first use of nuclear weapons".

SNP claims victory likely in 12 seats

The Scottish Nationalist Party began their election campaign yesterday with a claim that they were poised for victory in more than a dozen seats north of the border. The claim was made by the party leader Mr Gordon Wilson, and former MP for Dundee, east, in Edinburgh.

The SNP at present has only two MPs, compared with the 11 they had until the 1979 general



Mr Healey: Rubbed salt in policy wounds

He was then asked whether he could define the difference between a non-nuclear defence policy and a policy of no first-use.

Mr Healey said: "I think everybody concedes, CND certainly does, that the major danger of nuclear war consists in the enormous armaments piled up by the Soviet Union and the United States, which are being added to all the time a process which we want to reverse."

"What the Labour Party supports is organizing Nato strategy so that we can deter a massive Soviet conventional attack without requiring to threaten the first use of nuclear weapons".

The air pollution of Athens is the principal reason for the removal of priceless sculptures indoors. This is one of the reasons why, even if the British Museum returned its half of the Parthenon frieze, it cannot be placed back in position. Greek experts have been considering the possible transfer of the existing eastern frieze of the Parthenon to the museum.

● LONDON: A new British pressure group yesterday demanded the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum should be returned to Greece, Christopher Warman writes. The British Committee for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles state: "Quite clearly a wrong has been done. It is not always that wrongs can be righted but mercifully this one can. The Marbles have been carefully kept in the British Museum. They must be returned when Greece is ready to receive them."

Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, is visiting London this weekend, and will not lose the chance of emphasising her determination for their return.

New threat by water workers

A new strike threat from the water and sewage workers emerged yesterday at the National Union of Public Employees' conference at Scarborough.

Delegates representing 10,000 Nupw water workers said there could be another national strike if the Government went ahead with plans to abolish the industry's national negotiating machinery.

They were promised full backing by Nupw executive, which considers the water workers to be leading the fight against decentralization. In January the 29,000 water workers started a five-week strike before winning a 12 per cent rise. They fear now that if the Conservatives win the

election they will press ahead with decentralizing their pay machinery.

Delegates, who said their members were determined to protect their bargaining process. Unanimously approved a joint motion from branches in south-west England, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

It said that if the National Water Council is dissolved the three unions in the industry, Nupw, the General Municipal and Boilermakers' and the Transport and General Workers', should work with the "utmost urgency" for the establishment of an alternative national body.

The resolution added: "In the event of this not being con-

ceded, the unions of the National Joint Industrial Council should consider all-out industrial action to achieve this important objective".

Mr Rodney Rodney Bickers, Nupw's general secretary, promised the executive's full support. "Decentralization of wage negotiations is a major plank of this Government's antiunion policy", he said.

Water workers' leaders have already decided on one line of attack if decentralization takes place. They will agree a national claim, then lodge the claim on a region by region basis.

The employers are understood to be divided about the merits of abolishing the machinery.



Straight talking: Mr Peter Shore at Labour's press conference yesterday.

Saving the Parthenon by taking it down

From Mario Modiano Athens

If the British Museum decides to return the Elgin Marbles to Greece in the next decade, there may be no Parthenon to put the sculptures back on. Preliminary work has just begun on an ambitious project to dismantle the Parthenon stone by stone, then reassemble it after replacing the rusty iron clamps used by earlier restorers to hold the structure together.

The project will take 12 years. The Greek Government intends to consult foreign experts by organizing an international symposium where they will air their views and scrutinize the detailed plans.

This was the procedure followed in the case of the Erechtheion, the second of the three classical temples on the Acropolis of Athens. Work here is still in progress. All architectural members are being freed from the iron joints and brackets, which have caused the marble heavy delapidation.

These are now being replaced with supports made of titanium alloy which is not supposed to rust. The five caryatids were taken to the museum for protection, and were provisionally replaced by cement copies.

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Go back or factory shuts, BL men told

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

British Leyland yesterday warned 1,300 workers on strike at the Albion axle plant in Glasgow that the factory would be closed for good unless there was a return to work.

In a tactic often used by Sir Michael Edwards when he was company chairman, Mr Ronald Hancock, head of Leyland Vehicles, wrote to the strikers, threatening closure unless normal production was resumed by Monday.

The letter discloses that the company is less than 20 volunteers short of the 146-job outback it is seeking. The men walked out because Mr Hancock refused to rule out the possibility of compulsory severance.

He said in the letter that the chances were high that the shortfall would be filled by volunteers in the seven weeks remaining. The union convener had told him there was no need to call a mass meeting and no need to call off the strike.

The plant, which makes axles for the Leyland Truck works at Bathgate, near Edinburgh, and Leyland, in Lancashire, had been at a standstill for more than a week.

The company had announced that vehicle assembly at those two plants would stop on Friday, with thousands of lay-offs next week.

Mr Hancock wrote: "... I am

Woman is feared drowned

A woman was missing and feared drowned last night after being swept away in the flood-swollen Tywi, near Llanwrtyd Wells in mid-Wales.

The woman, and Mr Roger Villos, aged 32, a photographer, of Carreg Cennen, Trapp, Llandellio, Dyfed, had been trying to cross the fast-flowing river when she slipped into the rushing water.

Mr Villos made an attempt to save her. He was swept 500 yards before he managed to cling to a rock in the middle of the river.

He was seen by a holiday-maker, who raised the alarm and a rescue helicopter from RAF Brawdy flew to the scene. The crew managed to reach Mr Villos on board and he was flown to hospital in Carmarthen with back injuries and shock.

The helicopter crew searched the river for miles without finding any trace of the missing woman. Twenty police officers were continuing the search for her.

Recovery hopes hit by 1pc fall in output

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Government claims that an economic recovery is underway received a setback yesterday when the last estimates of industrial production to be published before the election showed an almost 1 per cent drop in March.

The figures were immediately seized on by Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, who said they "give the lie to all the exaggerated and over-optimistic claims about an industrial and economic recovery".

But comparisons for the last three months, a more reliable guide to trends, show that total

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Shortage of opera singers

Sir Colin Davis, musical director of the Royal Opera House said yesterday that he was concerned at the shortage of opera singers compared with 15 years ago (Our Arts Correspondent writes). He was replying to criticisms of the poor standard of some productions.

With many opera houses, there was a much greater demand for singers who, because of high fees on offer, were in danger of doing too much and burning themselves out, he said.

Sir Colin suggested that the long-term development of singers seemed to have gone out of the window, since the younger you were the more fashionable you were. But he also believed the talent was not there.

New opera season, page 13

Controls jam caused air crash

An inquest jury at Hull yesterday returned verdicts of death by misadventure on a Yorkshire Television cameraman and a director who died when their helicopter plunged into the River Humber on March 14.

The jury heard that the helicopter crashed when its controls became jammed with tape and film canisters. The helicopter was being used to make a programme when it hit the mast of the German tanker MV Zussow and plunged into the River Humber. The cameraman, Graham Barker, aged 38, a cameraman of Hampshire, north Yorkshire, and Mr David St David Smith aged 38 a director, of Leeds, died of asphyxia and multiple injuries. The pilot, Mr Mark Trumble, of Ringmore, Kingsbridge, Devon, was rescued after diving three times to the helicopter.

Teachers strike over conditions

Several thousand teachers went on a half-day strike in London yesterday over confidential discussions on lunchtime supervision and parents' meetings (Our Education Correspondent writes).

The teachers, members of the second biggest teachers' union, the National Association of School Teachers/Union of Women Teachers, were addressed by Mr Fred Smith, their general secretary, at Central Hall, Westminster. They then marched to County Hall.

Boy awarded £30,000

Darren John Carey, aged 13, of Mayroy Road, Charlton, south-east London, was awarded £30,000 damages by a High Court judge yesterday for "enormous injuries" suffered when he came into contact with the electrified third rail while crossing a railway line at Acton, in west London.

New remand on nephew charge

Ronald Waldron, unemployed, aged 37, was remanded in custody for seven days when he appeared before Liverpool magistrates for the fourth time yesterday, accused of murdering Andrew Waldron, aged five, his nephew.

Mr Waldron, of Compton Way, Anfield, is also charged with the attempted murder of the boy's mother and aggravated burglary on April 23.

Murder charge

Michael John Day, aged 36, unemployed and on fixed address, was remanded in custody for a week by Stoke-on-Trent magistrates yesterday, charged with the murder of Leonard Atherton, a kiln operator on Monday at a pottery in Burnham, Stoke.

Overseas selling prices

Average prices for 100 cwt. of various grades of wheat, barley, oats, etc., as at 10.00 a.m. on May 18, 1983. (All prices are in £/cwt. unless otherwise stated.)

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Reverend Mother

18 are arrested in hunt for wife abducted by INLA

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Eighteen people were arrested but one relative said: "We cannot say much. We just hope and pray we will see her again safe and well."

The abduction is the latest effort by republican paramilitary groups to bring crude pressure on people in custody who have given information to detectives.

Last August Mrs Fiona Brown disappeared from her home in west Belfast, but when her husband retracted earlier statements she appeared at a press conference organized by Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA. Mrs Brown said she had been staying with friends.

In November Mr Patrick Gilmour, aged 61, was abducted from his home in Londonderry after his son Raymond turned to stop her husband. Mr Gilmour, which led to 71 people being charged. In spite of pleas for his release, Mr Gilmour has not been seen since, but it is believed he is being held in Co. Donegal.

Dr Tiede Herrema, aged 62, who was kidnapped by Eddin Gallagher and Marion Coyle in 1975 and held for 36 days at Monasteravan, is to return to live in Dublin after he retires this year.

Dr Herrema said he would not settle permanently in Ireland, but would spend as much time as possible in the country with which he said he had an emotional tie since the abduction.

Revised forecasts 'back BA's case on Stansted'

British Airways claimed yesterday that Government forecasts on the growth of air travel supported the airline's case that Stansted would become "an expensive white elephant" if developed as London's third airport.

Instead a fifth terminal at Heathrow could be built in plenty of time to meet the growth, which would not come until the end of the century, a spokesman said.

Department of Trade forecasts, revised downwards since they were submitted to the continuing inquiry on the development of Stansted by the creation of a fifth Heathrow terminal, now estimated London area passengers at between 68 and 92 millions in the year

2000, in line with British Airways' forecast of 84 millions, he said.

For 1995 there had been a drop of between four and seven millions in the government forecast, revised to between 61 and 77 millions, compared with British Airways' 66 millions.

With existing terminals at Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted, capacity of small increases.

British Airways claimed that an extra 15-million passenger terminal at Heathrow could handle all the growth needed into the next century.

The Department of Trade commented on its revised forecasts for air passengers: "They are revised not so much downwards as delaying the growth for a few years."

London homes burden

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

First-time buyers of homes within the Greater London area need an income of almost £10,000 a year to be able to get their foot on the property ladder. Outside London the average first-time buyers' income falls to under £7,000 a year in areas such as east Midlands and Northern Ireland.

Generally young buyers in London need mortgages of more than £9,000 higher than people in other parts of the country. Average prices of homes bought by first-time buyers in the capital are more than £33,000, £5,000 higher than in the South-East and almost twice the cost of purchasing a home in Wales, the North, Yorkshire, Humberside and the East Midlands.

Those are the latest statistics released by the Abbey National Building Society, which show that in the first three months of the year house prices across the country rose by 1.7 per cent. But since the figures were compiled there has been an upsurge in demand, which suggests higher increases during the second quarter.

The latest issue of Abbey National's *Homes* comments that there have been large regional disparities in house price rises during the first quarter of the year. Britain's industrial areas have been leading the field, with the largest increase recorded in the North, where prices surged by more than 7 per cent, and the East Midlands, which showed a 6 per cent gain, and Yorkshire and Humberside with a 5 per cent advance.

Only in three regions did prices fall: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where prices dipped by as much as 5 per cent in the first three months.

Areas such as Greater London and the South-east show gains of between 10 and 12 per cent since the same time a year ago, although Abbey indicates a mild hitch in price rises in the first part of the year.

The society's estimate of the average price for a home is £26,201, compared with £25,783 at the end of 1982. But the society adds: "There is no clear evidence of a price boom



Battle stations: Kerry Nuttall, aged 10, joins her father's "troops" behind the barricades.

Red alert for the Melbourne Grove home guard

The private army of self-styled Major-General Barry Nuttall was at battle stations in Hull yesterday as the deadline passed for it to vacate its headquarters.

The men, dressed as American and British soldiers, complete with tin hats, were expecting an invasion by council bailiffs, but the noon deadline slipped by and the uneasy peace of Melbourne Grove remained unbroken.

Mr Nuttall, aged 34, and 29 members of his Northern Allied Axis War Games Society were barricaded behind doors, tyres and rubble in the dilapidated row of terrace houses

which are the subject of a compulsory purchase order. A tattered Union Jack flew overhead.

The men were ready to defend their headquarters with rotten eggs, floor bombs and rock cakes. But they had no use for their weapons. Two bailiffs arrived, checked the barricades and left. Mr Gilbert Bailson, a High Court Sheriff, did the same.

Mr Nuttall, a lorry driver, has been fighting for five years to save his home. The local council has bought most of the other houses in the street and wants to demolish them to make a car park.

The society stages mock battles for charity and many of the rooms in the house are packed with memorabilia.

Mr Nuttall said yesterday: "My father and I own two houses in this street. The council has offered us £3,400 for the pair. It is daylight robbery, and we are not going to let them get away with it."

He has been offered a new house near by, but has refused it because there is nowhere to park his Second World War military vehicles.

He said he had seen a house with a large garden which would suit his family and the society.

Murder by Jaguar charge

Rebecca Anne Howarth, a school girl, was killed a few days before her seventeenth birthday when a Jaguar car was deliberately driven at her in a car park in Bournemouth, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The girl was carried 20 to 30 ft on the bonnet of the car before being pitched off on to the tarmac.

Mr David Webster, QC, for the prosecution, said: "My friend, Paul Gary Green, aged 18, was injured in the attack."

Thomas Robert Barrett, aged 30, a builder, of Waverley Road, Reading, is charged with the murder of Miss Howarth, of Derby Road, South Woodford, Essex, between August 28 and September 4 last year, the attempted murder of Mr Green, a fishcurer, of Albert Road, Ilford, on August 29 and with wounding Mr Green with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He pleads not guilty.

Mr Webster said a party of young people from Essex had come to Bournemouth for the weekend. About 3 am some of them went to the beach, then returned to the car park. A blue Jaguar driven by Mr Barrett came into the car park.

"Suddenly there was the screaming of tyres and the Jaguar came fast up the car park to where some of the young people were standing," Mr Webster said. "It appeared to be heading straight towards them."

The car hit Mr Green and the girl, knocking them into the air. Mr Green fell sideways to the ground, but the girl was carried on the bonnet. She died in hospital without gaining consciousness.

Mr Barrett allegedly told the police that his friend had been nudged earlier that evening and he thought the people in the car park had something to do with it.

The hearing continues today.

Nalco rejects 41½% and plans action

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of the National and Local Government Officers Association yesterday rejected a 4½ per cent pay offer and decided to draw up plans for industrial action.

The union representatives will meet employers again today to press their claim for rises of between 8.3 and 26.9 per cent for their 80,000 members. Civil Service unions recently accepted a 4.9 per cent.

A delegate conference in London yesterday, instructed the executive of the union to draw up plans for action if there were no "substantial improvement" in the offer. The new deal would have to be ready by the next conference, on June 13 at Douglas, Isle of Man.

The union's national committee made no recommendations for industrial action to the meeting yesterday, but later agreed to an amendment put forward by the Islington branch.

The delegates' meeting rejected proposals to refer the dispute to arbitration and also rejected a proposal that there

should be a strike of Nalco members involved in the general election count.

The antagonism between leaders of the right-wing Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and their white-collar staff has increased, with the clerical and administrative employees being offered a "take it or leave it" pay rise of 4½ per cent.

The executive of the union has so far refused to meet senior staff to negotiate. Recently the national council of the million-member union voted unanimously to award the executive a 6 per cent pay increase plus the consolidation of a £200 expense allowance with other benefits.

Most of the 40 senior staff involved at the union's Peckham headquarters are members of the engineering union and 200 others belong to Apex.

Nearly 400 tube workers at the British Steel Corporation plant in Corby, Northamptonshire, have been told they are to be put on short time working because of a slump in orders.

Changes to reactor opposed

Important design changes to the Sizewell B pressurized water reactor, called for by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, could delay a start on the site by 12 months and add £75m to the cost, the Central Electricity Generating Board told the public inquiry into the project today.

Lord Silcock, QC, for the board, told the inquiry at Snape, Suffolk, that the modifications required by the inspectorate, the Government's safety watchdog, could cost as much as £31m.

Mr Giles would not give the potential cost of an S-90, but on the basis of weapons and sensors costing about £40m, he seems to be thinking in terms of a total construction and equipment cost of about £65m.

One criticism made of the S-90 is that it would need greater power and be more expensive to operate at high speed. Mr Giles replies that preliminary tests showed that it could achieve 28 knots at full load with 45,000 hp. That compared with the earlier estimates that it would require 46,000 hp and criticisms which suggested that 60,000 hp would be needed. He conceded that it would be slightly less economical at full speed than conventional naval ships.

Thornycroft Giles and its industrial supporters are hoping that on the basis of the proposals it is presenting to the Ministry of Defence it will award a contract to develop further its design.

Mr Giles has been incensed by the leaking of the unorthodox opinion of the Hull Committee of the Defence Scientific Advisory Council, after a presentation he made in March.

He says their criticisms cover points which could not be dealt with at the present relatively early stage of the

design work on the S-90, and which could not be verified without the results of the tank tests, which were not known in March.

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Sale room Garden find is sold for £4,840

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A piece of Celtic bronze harness dug up in a garden in Reading was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £4,840 (estimate £2,000-3,000). It is a semicircular bronze terret, measuring 3½ in. and decorated with red and yellow enamels.

A terret was a ring attached to horse trappings through which the reins passed. This one dates from about the first century AD.

It was discovered by Mr S R Or 18 years ago while digging a new driveway at his home in Shrublands Drive, off Burfield Road. The family thought at first that it was a gypsy ornament and hung it on their garden gate.

They took it later to Reading Museum, where it was identified as a Celtic terret. It was the news that another terret dug up in Norfolk had been sold for £17,600 last December that persuaded them to try to sell.

Sotheby's sale of antiquities totalled £202,086, with 20 per cent left unsold. A big surprise was a price of £14,850 (estimate £3,000-£4,000) paid by Antiqua, of Switzerland, for a Roman marble relief of the "Rape of the Sabines". It measures more than seven feet and dates from about the second century AD.

The top price was \$30,800 (estimate \$30,000-\$50,000) or £19,371, paid by David Caplan, a Tokyo dealer, for a mica print by Shikawa Monnosuke II, the actor.

The review was agreed by the Inner London Education Authority's education committee yesterday in a debate punctuated by abuse from rival members.

Mr David Avery, Conservative deputy leader of the authority, claimed the Greater London Council's Labour administration disliked the voluntary youth sector. He said Labour councillors should have left any decision about the Scouts until they had reviewed all the other uniformed youth groups.

But a Conservative amendment to overturn the decision to review the Scout movement was defeated and a censure motion against Mr Avery was carried by 35 votes to 12.

Labour members resented the fact that he had talked to the press about an alleged grant application form in which Scout groups were required to state whether their leaders were homosexual.

Mr Neil Fletcher, chairman of the further and higher education subcommittee, said no such form existed, and Mr Avery had accepted that.

The controversy about the Scouts began last December when Mr Fletcher took exception to remarks made by Major-General Michael Walsh, the new Chief Scout, calling for more drilling, marching and standing to attention for his members.

More than a hundred inmates at Albany, the maximum security prison, on the Isle of Wight, face a fine or the loss of remission after a two-day strike in which they demanded longer exercise periods and the right to wear civilian clothing.

Prison protest

Prison protest

Prison protest

Prison protest

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Prison protest

Science report

New find may be heaviest particle

Scientists at the European Centre for Nuclear Research (Cern), near Geneva, may have discovered the heaviest elementary particle yet known, the "neutral intermediate vector boson", or Z⁰ for short.

Although the Cern team are not daring to make a public announcement, an "internal statement" is circulating at Cern which says that a Z⁰ is "the most likely interpretation" of the results of recent experiment. If that interpretation is correct, the Z⁰ decayed rapidly into an electron and a positron (an anti-electron), and weighed about 100 times as much as a hydrogen atom.

The Z⁰ might be described as a heavy photon, a heavy particle of light. However, the "light" of which the Z⁰ is the particle is not the same light that we see with our eyes. Ordinary light is radiation resulting from the shaking of electric charges; the Z⁰ results from the shaking of a different kind of charge, called a "weak" charge.

The radiation from electric charges causes electrical forces; the radiation from weak charges causes weak forces. On the whole electric forces bind atoms together; on the whole weak forces cause long-term atomic decay.

According to the "unified field theory" of Professor Abdus Salam and Professor Steven Weinberg, the two kinds of charge are really aspects of the same thing and the weakness of the weak force is entirely the result of the large mass of the Z⁰ particle.

Its great mass has the effect of reducing the range of the weak force, which, therefore, is tangible over only fractions of a nuclear diameter. The photon, by contrast, is massless, and the corresponding electrical forces have infinite range.

The great excitement about the new discovery, if it so proves, is that it begins to provide a sharp test of the Salam-Weinberg theory. A few months ago Dr Carlo Rubbia and his "UA1" collaboration at Cern, which included British physicists, discovered the slightly lighter partners of the Z⁰, the W⁺ and W⁻. An exact mass ratio between the W-particles and the Z⁰ is predicted by the theory, so a test of the theory is possible.

However, the test is more accurate the better the masses are known, and the masses are better known the more examples of W and Z⁰ decays there are. So far Dr Rubbia and his team have about ten W decays and only a single Z⁰ decay. That is enough to give an indication that the theory is about right but not enough to make a precise test.

As the experiment continues, however, it should yield more and more W and Z⁰ particles and so become an increasingly stringent test of the theory.

Dr Rubbia's group would like to have three or four more examples of Z⁰ production and decay before it is certain enough to make an official announcement, particularly since the one event they have observed has some slight peculiarities which make it not the best case on which to stake a reputation.

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Bus accident

Miss Angela Miles, aged 22, of Market Drayton, Shropshire, was injured yesterday when the roof of a double-deck bus was ripped off as it passed under a railway bridge after taking a wrong turning.

Bird's-eye view of Britain

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A poll taken of more than 1,000 people over the age of 16 reveals what the British people consider very important in their everyday lives. More than four out of five listed good health, family life and steady jobs.

Nearly a half chose money, food and drink. Fewer than a quarter selected sport, religion and success, and only one in 10 picked politics, which came bottom of the poll. In twenty-third place, a fifth of those polled considered that politics was not at all important in their lives.

The Gallup poll, published yesterday, which was com-

missioned by Birds Eye Walls, also showed that most people thought frozen food looked and tasted better than tinned products.

The survey found that a tenth of working wives did not know their husbands' income. Most families spent more than £50 a week on housekeeping, but more than 10 per cent of married women received less than £30 a week from their husbands.

Birds Eye Walls commented: "Britain in 1983 is a rather sober society in which most of the traditional values stand firm."

The Gallup poll, published yesterday, which was com-

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Prime's referee claims security report uses her as scapegoat

By John Withers

Miss Dorothea Barsby last night denied allegations made in the Security Commission report that she had protected Geoffrey Prime from exposure as a Soviet spy nine years before he was finally caught.

In a blistering attack on the report, published last week, she said she was "angry, hurt, outraged and disgusted" that she had been accused of "disgraceful" behaviour and said it was a whitewash to cover up for the incompetence of the Security Services.

Miss Barsby appeared at a news conference with her solicitor, Mr Michael Rubinstein, after avoiding making any statements for five days. She also refused an allegation in the report that she had been told by Mrs Helena Prime that her husband was a spy before she, Miss Barsby, had acted as a referee for Prime.

She also said that when Mr. Prime, who was an old friend, told her that Prime had admitted to spying in 1973, she dismissed it as of no consequence because it came after one of the frequent rows between the couple.

"She added that she had been a 'reluctant referee because I didn't like Prime. I had no idea I was being used as a referee for a man who was engaged in top security service work'."

The Security Commission report said that Miss Barsby,

who is in her thirties, was told by Mrs. Prime, in 1973 of Prime's treachery, but did not reveal it: when questioned during his vetting process.

But Miss Barsby said yesterday that this conversation took place after the questioning by an investigating officer and was merely hearsay.

Asked about the Security Commission's statement that she had been told that Prime had said he was spying before she acted as a referee, she said: "That is not true. I was told afterwards and it seemed mere hearsay."

"What woman in her right mind would, denounce her friend's husband on hearsay evidence? By trying to pin the blame for the failure of the Security Services to catch Prime on me, the Security Commission have failed to protect a law-abiding and loyal citizen of this country in order to protect the Security Services."

The Government has endorsed and adopted an incompetent report, uncaring of its consequences, and have accused me - an innocent person - without giving me a chance to clear my name."

Miss Barsby said she was interviewed by Prime's investigating officer, whom she described as a bowler-hatted old-fashioned city clerk who spent most of the time talking

about me, which I could not see the point of.

She said she had been questioned in February of this year, by two men of the Ministry of Defence, one of whom was a lawyer, but she and Mr Rubinstein, who had also been present, had not been told that the conversation would be misreported to the Security Commission.

"The Security Commission published their report when it could not be debated in Parliament - maybe it was a coincidence," Miss Barsby said, reading from a written statement.

"What is not in doubt is the damage it has done to me, to my family, my friends and my new business, which I have just started. Only the Security Services have benefited from this report."

"They tried to make out that it was all my fault for not having done their job for them. It is just a deplorable whitewash. Their only point is that it is not their fault. It is mine. They are using me as a scapegoat for their poor record and as an excuse for bringing in the lie-detector. They probably need one."

Miss Barsby said she intended to try to return to normal life and get on with her new business of selling hamburgers at country fairs.

BR chief aims to run London radio

By Kenneth Gosling

Capital Radio is to be challenged for the London commercial radio general and entertainment contract by a consortium headed by Sir Peter Barker, who retires as chairman of the British Railways Board in September.

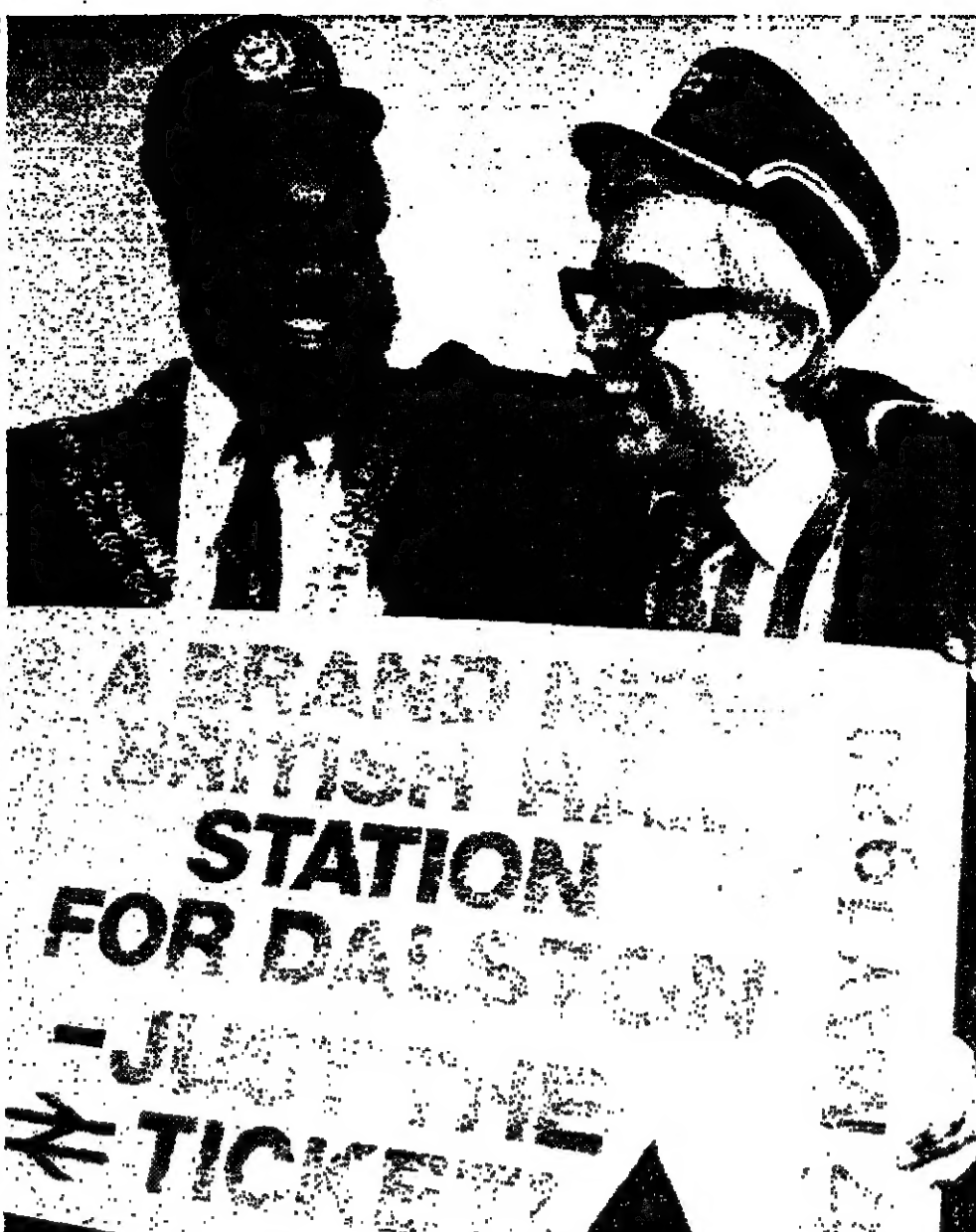
He has been appointed chairman of Metropolitan Radio Ltd, whose managing director is Mr Robert Kennedy, a director until early last year of Capital Radio and of eight other independent radio stations.

Sir Peter said yesterday that he was glad to be part of "this important new development" and the service it was planning for London.

Mr Kennedy is an experienced local broadcaster. He managed the BBC's first local stations in Leicester, was a member of the Independent Broadcasting Authority's senior staff when independent radio began and for five years was managing director of Standard Broadcasting Corp (UK) Ltd.

He will be joined on the Metropolitan board by Lady Ewart-Biggs, an active Labour peeress and widow of Mr Christopher Ewart-Biggs, who was British Ambassador to Dublin; Mr Roy Evans, a lawyer and freelance writer, who came to this country from Jamaica in the early 1960s and is involved with tenant and community groups in inner London; Mr Alan Parker, the film director and writer, who won international awards for such films as *Bugsy Malone* and *Midnight Express*; Mr Peter Benton, who was deputy chairman of British Telecom until his retirement last March; and Mr Clive Lindley, chairman of the independent radio station serving Cheltenham and Gloucester and of LCI Group Ltd, a substantial private company with interests throughout the UK.

The contract, held by Capital since 1973, will run for eight years from October next year.



Fellow travellers: Mr Samuel Springer (left), the mayor of Hackney, and Mr David Wetzel, the chairman of the Greater London transport committee, opening the new station in Kingsland High Street, north-east London, yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Farmers forced to risk cattle on wet grass

Shortages and high prices of hay and other feeds are forcing some cattle farmers to put their herd out to graze on unfit pastures (Hugh Clayton writes). Farmers faced with steep price increases for hay and other feeds are allowing cattle to graze for short periods on exceptionally wet grass. The farmers risk severe digestive disorders such as bloat in their animals, which may also trample the pastures and postpone still further the time when they will be able to graze in the normal way. Wet grass which has grown fast can lack minerals. Cattle would usually be grazing at this time of year. However, because of the weather they are being fed on dwindling supplies of feed.

PC regrets part in assault case

From a Staff Reporter

Police Constable Timothy Edwards told Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that he felt ashamed for his part in an incident in which a young man was viciously attacked by a fellow officer for fun.

But PC Edwards said he acted in good faith as a police officer and never kicked or punched the man, who suffered cuts and bruises to his face.

PC Edwards, aged 22, of Romilly Close, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, denied assaulting Mr David Campbell, causing him bodily harm. Police Constable David Smallwood, aged 21, formerly at police lodgings in Broadon Road, Stirling, Birmingham, had admitted assault and will be sentenced after the trial of PC Edwards.

PC Edwards told the court he had drunk 16 pints of mild beer during the day and fell asleep in his car, but he woke up when the driver, PC Smallwood, leapt out to chase someone.

PC Edwards said he tried to block the escape route of Mr Campbell, aged 23, of Fuirax Road, West Heath, Birmingham, but failed.

The trial continues today.

Success of vitamins against spina bifida

By David Nicholson-Lord

Government decisions on the prescription of vitamin diet supplements for pregnant women to prevent them having spina bifida babies are likely to be over taken by pressure from the public, authorities on child health and community medicine said yesterday.

Studies showing that "high risk" women given extra vitamins around the time of conception have babies free from spina bifida were described as "very exciting" by Professor John Dobbing, of Manchester University's child health department. More and more women were likely to demand the treatment from their family doctors, he said.

"There is a lot of dispute, but there is no dispute whatever that all the findings available are consistent with the proposal that vitamins do prevent the defect. The argument is about whether there are alternative explanations that would fit the results", he said.

Professor Dobbing was speaking at a conference to launch the publication of a new study on vitamin treatment, based on the proceedings of an intensive expert workshop held last autumn.

The study has been published

with speed in an attempt to secure a wider public debate on the treatment, shortly to be the subject of a trial by the Medical Research Council.

But several of the medical experts who took part in the workshop yesterday said the trial had been overtaken by events. Professor Ian Leck, of Manchester University's department of community medicine, predicted it would be a "flop" because women at risk would not accept the possibility of being given placebos rather than vitamins merely to satisfy the requirement of a "double-blind" procedure.

Vitamins are prescribed for a month before conception and the succeeding two months. In one study the pill used provides the vitamins that are regarded in the United States as the recommended daily requirement.

In another study only folic acid, one of the vitamin B complex found in spinach and liver, was administered. A year's supply of this costs £2.60, but the multivitamin cocktail is said to cost 10 times more.

Prevention of Spina Bifida and other Neural Tube Defects (Academic Press).

Pupils failing at languages

British school-leavers are lagging behind their west European counterparts in foreign language skills, according to a government consultative paper published yesterday.

Boys in particular are failing to reach a reasonable level of competence in a foreign language, according to the document published by the Department of Education and Science. It says: "Britain is to trade successfully in the world and play its full part as an effective member of the European community, national competence in foreign languages need to be more like that of other members countries."

Although many more pupils now begin to learn foreign languages, few complete a full

course of study. "The picture that emerges is that the attempt to change the emphasis of foreign language teaching have had limited success. Too few school leavers, especially boys, have a reasonable proficiency in a foreign language."

The increase over the last decade in the proportion of pupils taking GCE examinations is very much smaller in foreign languages than in most other subjects. The proportion of school-leavers who have attempted a foreign language A level has fallen, particularly among boys.

Foreign languages in the School Curriculum (Department of Education and Science, York Road, London, SE1 7PH free).

Aid planned for doctors in poorer areas

By a Staff Reporter

Family doctor services in the poorer parts of Britain could be greatly improved under proposals being considered by a British Medical Association working group.

Dr Bryan Davies, chairman of the BMA's general medical services committee in Wales, said yesterday that areas such as the inner cities, South Wales and Durham, which had worse medical facilities, would be affected. "We are talking about great slabs of the country."

At the centre of the changes is the replacement of the capitation fee system

Holloway Prison's controversial governor

The cure is in self-improvement

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Miss Joy Kinsley, aged 50, governor of Holloway Women's Prison, in north London, is behaving in character in her controversial crack-down on professional contacts between her chief education officer, Mr Richard Brown, the Rev James Pink, the chaplain, and former inmates.

She wears sensible shoes and sensible clothes, her grey hair is in short, sensible curls and she likes men to be sensible about women prisoners.

Before I went off to write about Bullwood Hall, the girls' board, she warned me not to be taken in by the charm they could put on. She was then working in the prison department's regional office.

Staff at Holloway liken her

to an old-style "school marm". Her slightly forbidding manner and composure are said to come from her training as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, in south London.

In keeping with the Victorian prisons in which she has worked, she is best summed up by the titles of Samuel Smiles's books: *Self-Help*, *Character*, and *Duty*, all given edge by a restless search for self-improvement.

She qualified as a midwife and then as a social worker before joining the prison service as an assistant governor at the staff college in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in 1966.

Her determined single-mindedness helped to make her the first women governor

in charge of male prisoners. That was at Puckchurch Remand Centre, in Bristol, for males and females.

Last June she became the first woman deputy regional director in the south-east. Her rise to be a top governor was the fastest for a decade.

She began her revolution at Holloway, when the prison was already in the turmoil of rebuilding last July and represents new thinking in the Prison Department.

The belief that criminals could be "cured" of crime led to the new Holloway being envisaged as a hospital.

Now, those ideas are out. Dr Megan Bull, a medical officer, became governor. For Miss Kinsley believes women can be bad as well as good or mad. Work parties were dispatched to give the prison a thorough clean-up. There is a morning parade where there is not a stiletto heel in sight.

She has 10 years to go before retirement and governor colleagues think she may become the first woman regional director in the service. Her private life remains just that, devoted to looking after her cats and her aged mother.

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ELECTION JUNE 83 Tories to tackle unions

Owen on coalitions

Wilson on winning

Tebbit promises three changes in the law to curb union power

By Paul Rowlings, Labour Editor

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, confirmed the Government's intention yesterday to legislate in three areas of trade union activity if returned to power.

In an interview with *The Times* he disclosed that new laws governing the election of trade union leaders, pre-strike ballots and the political activity of unions would be a central part of the Conservative election strategy.

Mr Tebbit said that he believed many of the unemployed would vote Conservative because "people frankly do not believe" Labour's claim of being able to find 2,500,000 jobs in five years.

The Employment Secretary believes that further curbs on the unions will be a vote-winner, particularly among union members. He has decided to legislate on all three areas of union law and practice examined in his recent Green Paper, *Democracy in Trade Unions*.

These are: compulsory secret ballots for the election of governing bodies of trade unions; measures to encourage unions to hold a secret ballot before embarking on strike action; and a tighter ban on the political activities of unions.

"The 1980 and 1982 employ-

ment Acts are very popular and well supported by trade unionists", he argued, "although opposed by trade union leaders. And the proposals that will flow from the Green Paper are obviously going to be very popular with trade unionists as well. The polls show that we have increased our support among trade unionists."

Speaking on the eve of publication of the Conservative manifesto, Mr Tebbit said he was confident of having found a way to ensure that workers were permitted to vote on strike action much more often than at present.

"Trade union members do seem to be interested in who their leaders are", he said. "Given the chance to take part in free and fair ballots, far more of them vote than when it is one of the traditional methods of election, in late-night meetings, at inconvenient times and places."

The railwaymen were pushed into a strike without a ballot, he said. "The water workers never had an opportunity to ballot at any stage, as far as I know. Were any of them actually asked to mark on a ballot paper: 'Do you want to strike or not?' There is a very real interest in what we can do to encourage people to have strike ballots."

Mr Tebbit has been tipped for promotion within the Cabinet if the Government retains office, possibly to Home Secretary, but he said he would be "perfectly happy" to remain Employment Secretary if Mrs Thatcher so wished. "There is still a lot of work to do."

On the likelihood of a Conservative victory at the polls, he said: "Like most of my colleagues, I am reasonably confident that, provided we continue to carry our message across to the electorate, we shall be returned to government."

Labour's manifesto he regards as a gift to the Government. "We have the advantage that the remedies offered by the Labour Party are known to have been tried before, and to have failed. They are seen not to be used by any of our leading competitors abroad."

"By making these wild claims that, merely by spending money we have not got, you can bring unemployment down, to less than one million in five years, the Labour Party is scoring an own goal because people frankly do not believe it."

Labour believed that the problem of unemployment was one confined to Great Britain, and had been caused entirely by the Government. They believed it could be cured by spending.

Effect of 1960s birth rate

1.6 million more eligible to vote

By Our Political Staff

In the general election 42,703,019 people will be eligible to vote in the United Kingdom, compared with 41,096,751 in May, 1979, according to electoral statistics published by the Government Statistical Service.

The increase of the number of electors in the four countries of the UK is: England, 34,212,573 to 35,569,230; Scotland, from 3,795,865 to 3,934,220; Wales, from 2,061,109 to 2,138,384; and Northern Ireland, from 1,027,204 to 1,061,185.

In 1979, 76 per cent of the electors voted, a total of 31,221,364. In each country the turnout was: England, 75.9 per cent; Scotland, 76.8 per cent; Wales, 79.4 per cent; and Northern Ireland, 67.7 per cent.

The number of constituencies in England is now increased by seven to 523, in Northern Ireland by five to 17, and in Scotland by one to 72, and in Wales by two to 38. The UK total is now 650 seats.

Noting the increase in the electorate, the Statistical Service says: "This is due to the new elections due to death and emigration; the effect of the high level of births in the mid-1960s is still strong."

"The level of registration of Attainers [formerly called the Y voters] in England and Wales

remained high, at approximately 80 per cent."

There are now 739,854 Attainers—that is boys and girls who became or will become aged 18 between February 17, 1983, and February 15, 1984—in the register, and 270,180 service voters, compared with 245,854 on the 1982 register.

Constituencies with the largest and smallest electorates are given below. The range of the electorates, following the redrawing of parliamentary boundaries, is now much smaller, from 95,000 to 23,000, compared with a variation from 132,000 to 17,000 in the previous constituencies.

To be eligible to vote, an adult resident in the United Kingdom must be a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, or of a Commonwealth country or of the Republic of Ireland. An analysis of the 1981 Register showed that of the eligible people who were born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or the Old Commonwealth, 6 per cent were not registered.

For those who had been naturalized, or have registered as citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies, the proportion not registered was 12 per cent. This contrasted with the much higher rate of non-registration of 31 per cent citizens of the New Commonwealth countries.

1983 ELECTORAL REGISTER

Area	Largest constituency	Electors	Smallest constituency	Electors
England	Isle of Wight	95,357	Hammersmith	46,507
Wales	Pembrokeshire	66,741	Merthyr Tydfil	30,796
Scotland	Gordon	66,244	Western Isles	23,020
N Ireland	Fermanagh & Tyrone	68,913	Belfast South	54,115

Advertising salvo from Tories

By Our Political Staff

The Conservative Party's first advertising salvo, published in national newspapers today, is in the form of a last will and testament, indicating what a person voting Labour will be committed to.

It includes declarations such as "I agree to have the value of my savings reduced immediately in accordance with Labour's wishes to devalue the pound."

Others include: "I hereby give up the right to choose for my children to go to and agree to abide by any decision made by the state on my behalf"; and "I sign away the right to buy my council house."

Paisley seeks a poll pact

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in Northern Ireland is trying to negotiate an electoral pact with Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, to avoid splitting the Unionist vote in six constituencies where divided loyalties might ensure victory for either Sinn Féin or the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

The DUP wants a free run, for example, in Belfast West where Mr Gerald Fiennes, a challenge for the Catholic vote from Mr Gerry Adams, vice-president of Sinn Féin.

Euro MP chosen

Mr Robert Jackson, Conservative European MP for Upper Thames, will fight the general election in the new Wantage constituency in Oxfordshire.

The choice of Mr Jackson, aged 36, as the Conservative candidate came after Mr Tom Bonyon, the former MP for Abingdon, said he would not seek the nomination for personal and business reasons.



Still basking in the limelight: Sir Harold Wilson at his London flat yesterday. (Photograph: John Manning)

The master's guide to the art of winning elections

By David Howson

"It's a lot easier fighting a General Election as Prime Minister", Sir Harold Wilson says. "You speak with more authority." Then he promptly describes how he twice achieved power as Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition.

Still with an impish humour and pointed turn of phrase, Sir Harold at 67 is standing down after 38 years in the House with a record 'unchallenged' in modern times: four General Election victories (1964, 1966 and two in 1974), and one defeat (1970).

"I was very lucky that my first fight (in 1964) was at the end of 13 years of Conservative rule", he adds. "It meant we had something fresh and new to offer, though I was wrong in my reaction when the Conservatives elected Alec Home after my old sparring partner Harold Macmillan. We made a lot about the 19th earl or the 13th earl or whatever he was, but by heaven, he was it very close."

Then there was 1974, when he again climbed to power from the Opposition benches, during the miners' strike against Mr Edward Heath's pay cuts.

"I tried to get Ted off the hook over that because I didn't want to have an election during a strike: 1974 was an extraordinary election in every way—the only one, I think, outside wartime which has been fought under a state of national emergency."

"I was able to turn the coal strike to our advantage. Remember, at that time it was illegal for any industrial firm to work more than three days a week. So it was an easy one for me because of my background."

The result of the second 1974 election was less good than I had hoped, and indeed that is what later left Jim Callaghan in a spot because the majority was so small."

Sir Harold thought Mrs Margaret Thatcher ran a good campaign to defeat Mr Callaghan in 1979. "Jim got the timing wrong but I can't blame him for that because he consulted me the previous September and I said he didn't have to go. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone could have foreseen the dirty streets we ended up with" (in the "winter of discontent").

Although there may be political theorists who believe it is easier for an Opposition to overthrow a Government than for a party to return for a second term, Sir Harold firmly believes the advantage lies with Downing Street.

"Some in the Labour Party would prefer us always to be in opposition; but the people who seal the envelopes and do the canvassing are as loyal as they can be, and it's a thrill to them to have, as it were, their own prime minister."

Sir Harold feels his campaigning style changed little over the years. "You have a few good tips at the back of your mind for dealing with any new proposals the Opposition make: will they work? what will they cost? And the Civil Service machines quietly set down to prepare the Queen's Speech for the Leader of the Opposition, should he win."

In office, Sir Harold drafted his own key statements, which were inserted into speeches produced by election staff and released as press handouts the

following day. They were usually about the government's record.

"The handout was what I hoped the press would pick up and they usually did. Sometimes I might reply to a charge from the opposition if it needed handling, but as in all walks of life, on balance you don't advertise your opponent."

It is a little too early to judge Mrs Thatcher's present campaigning, although Sir Harold feels she may be in danger of over exposure. "There's a little too much talking going on."

She was wise, he feels, to decide to go to the Williamsburg conference just 10 days before the election.

"She's got a favourable press on the whole, which helps. I can imagine what one or two papers would have said if I'd gone to Williamsburg. They would have stated my motives rather differently from the way they'll state hers."

As for the Labour Party: "It hasn't helped itself. It's easy for the hostile press but those on the other side have been given something to talk about. Mrs Thatcher's image is that of the toughest man we've got. She's certainly the toughest man on her side; but we've got Healey. The Labour Party will go into it with a lot of determination but perhaps feeling that she has pulled a fast one on the timing."

And if any voter thought that politicians actually like to displease them, "I never enjoyed them, whether I was Leader of the Opposition or Prime Minister. . . . They're such hard work."

Owen outlines the 'good policies' of Labour and Tories

By Our Political Staff

Never short of an answer, Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, who was fielded as the Liberal/SDP spokesman at yesterday's London press conference, outlined the "good things" in the Labour and Conservative Party programmes which might encourage the Alliance MPs in a "hung" parliament to support them in office.

In reply to Mr Walter Cronkite, the American television commentator, Dr Owen had listed items which the Alliance opposed. Then he was asked to take a positive approach.

Dr Owen said: "Well, the Labour Party's heart is in the right place on unemployment, though I think some of their proposals for curing it would actually increase unemployment." Labour's heart was also sound on poverty, though again he thought their proposals were not as radical and redistributive as those of the Alliance.

He thought their heart was in the demand for more and better housing, "but they fail to face up to the fact that there are thousands if not millions of house tenants who want to purchase their houses."

The Alliance scheme, providing a pot of money for every pound saved by the tenant, would give many more people the chance to buy their home.

The Alliance manifesto states that the present capital gains tax scheme to help first-time buyers is "a policy thing", adding at most £110 capital for the £1,000 saved by the buyer.

The Alliance wants to extend the scheme so that anyone saving £1,000 over two years will receive an extra £1,000. Rents paid over more than five years by council house tenants would count as the equivalent of £1,000 and would also

qualify for the additional £1,000.

As for the Conservatives, they were sensible in their support for the mixed economy, for a thriving private sector, for the need to help small businesses and their recognition that firms had to be profitable to invest and become competitive.

Conservatives could also be applauded for understanding the merits and benefits of continued membership of the European Economic Community.

Mr David Penhaligon, former Liberal MP for Truro, sharing the platform with Dr Owen, said that possibly the greatest quality of the Alliance from the elector's point of view was that it would act as a moderating influence in Parliament to block extreme policies put forward by the other parties.

When it was pointed out to Dr Owen that he had not mentioned the introduction of proportional representation as a condition of support for any party warring them he quickly put the record straight. "That is the essential prerequisite for the effective government of this country."



Dr David Owen: a refreshing approach to moderation.

Buoyant Labour hopes for gains in Scotland

By Ian Bradley

Scotland looks as though it will conform much more closely to the overall United Kingdom trend in this campaign than in the last four general elections. Although Labour still has a lead in opinion polls north of the border, it was down to 3 per cent in the last Scottish poll.

Even more significant, the devolution issue, which dominated Scottish politics in the 1970s, has largely subsided and the campaign is likely to centre on the same themes as in England.

Labour starts from a commanding position holding most of the Scottish seats at the dissolution. It will campaign vigorously on unemployment and especially on the importance of retaining steel, shipbuilding and coal industries in Scotland.

The party has high hopes of taking two seats from the Tories: Cunningham, north, the seat of Mr John Corrie, the anti-abortion campaigner, and Aberdeen South, the former seat of Mr Iain Sproat, who has gone to a new constituency in the borders.

Labour also hopes to take Dundee, East from the Scottish Nationalist Party and displace the three SDP MPs in Scotland: Mr Roy Jenkins, at Glasgow Hillhead; Mr Robert MacLennan, Cathness and Motherland; and Dr Dickson Mahon, Renfrew, West and Inverclyde.

The Conservatives, who will argue that Scotland has done relatively well in the recession, are also in buoyant mood. They

have hopes of gaining Glasgow, Cathcart, Stirling, Dunbarton, and they also have their eyes on Leith, the seat formerly held by Mr Ron Brown, the Labour left-winger.

The SDP Liberal Alliance could be in trouble. The SDP's three seats in Scotland are all vulnerable to Labour and the Liberals seem likely to lose Orkney and Shetland after the retirement of Mr Jo Grimond.

But they have hopes of capturing the new seat of Roxburgh and Berwickshire, which adjoins Mr David Steel's constituency, and the new seat of Fife, North-east. However, Mr Russell Johnston, the Scottish Liberal Party leader, looks vulnerable to the Conservatives, in Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, having lost the Island of Skye in boundary changes.

The Scottish Nationalists go into the election weakened by a low rating in the polls and a long period of bitter internal squabbling. Mr Gordon Wilson, the party chairman, is in serious danger of losing Dundee, East, although the other MP in the last Parliament, Mr Donald Stewart, looks safe in the Western Isles.

The Nationalists' biggest hope is in Orkney and Shetland, where their candidate is Mrs Winifred Ewing, the Euro MP for the Scottish Highlands and Islands. It seems unlikely, however, that the SNP will be able to win back the nine seats which it lost in the 1979 election.

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Stockton-on-Tees

Where personalities count

CANDIDATES

Stockton N
Frank Cook
Harry Davies
William Rodgers

Profile of Stockton North

1981 % Own Occ	48.3
1981 % Loc Auth	48.4
1981 % Black/Asian	40.1
1981 % Mkt cl	11.3
1981 % Prof man	70,806
1982 % electorate	
1979 % BBC/ITN national result	Lab 11,808

A hard task faces the Social Democrats in Stockton North and South, their two most crucial northern seats. There was no encouragement for them in the recent local elections, the national polls are equally depressing and the memory of the Darlington by-election still casts a shadow across the prospects of Mr William Rodgers and Mr Ian Wrigglesworth.

The local Labour establishment is determined that the two sitting members shall learn the error of their ways in leaving the party for the SDP, while the Tories see a split Labour vote as giving them a strong chance.

Boundary changes introduce another precarious factor, for the SDP in what has been for many years Labour-held territory. SDP workers calculate that the new boundary lines broadly change the old balance from an urban to a suburban or rural vote in important places, giving the Conservatives a stronger chance, particularly in Stockton South.

Mr Rodgers is left with a large spread of Labour-voting housing estates to woo across to the SDP view, and Mr Wrigglesworth

won the Thornaby constituency in 1974. He had 51 per cent of the vote last time and a majority of 5,524. His main competitor is Mr Tom Finnegan, aged 44, a Yorkshire company director who is new to national politics. The Labour nomination, Mr Frank Griffiths, a lecturer at Teesside Polytechnic, seems to show more interest in being selected for Middlesbrough rather than a new seat that will probably require a swing of 1966 proportions for Labour to win with a new candidate.

Mr Rodgers is the longest serving MP for Stockton. He has held the seat for 21 years and won high Labour government office. At the recent local elections in Stockton North, Conservative and Labour were narrowly matched. The SDP fought only five of the 17 wards but on a projection would have won about two-thirds of the vote recorded by the other parties. Perhaps the saving factor for them is that 32,000 Stockton people who did not vote then may be expected to turn out at a general election.

The battle for Mr Rodgers is to win half those votes to have any chance of holding the seat. A tall order, but like Mr Wrigglesworth he has a strong personal following.

His Labour opponent is Mr Frank Cook, a construction project manager with a local



Mr William Rodgers (left), SDP candidate for Stockton North, and Mr Julian Priestley, Labour candidate for Plymouth Devonport.

company and a trade union official. He was already prepared to challenge Mr Rodgers' nomination before the SDP defection, and there seemed little love lost between the men.

Mr Cook complained that Mr Rodgers had lambasted him for being militant during his time as Labour MP. "My attitude will be to fight this election on a programme of policies. Personalities will not come into it, but if he chooses to dish a bit of dirt..."

The Conservatives challenge to Mr Rodgers is led by Mr Harry Davies, a prominent local politician. Unemployment is the main weapon that will inevitably be aimed against him, but he is encouraged by the local election results and remains confident that a split

Labour vote and the newly shaped boundaries will win him the seat.

Something of a Tory fundamentalist and headmaster of a Stockton primary school he says his issues would be the "three Rs": retention of common market membership; Russia; and a policy that does not leave Britain defenceless against communism; recession and the Government's action in handling the economic consequences.

Results at the 1979 election:
Stockton North: Labour 11,808 (51.2%), SDP 11,808 (51.2%), Conservatives 11,808 (51.2%).
Stockton South: Labour 11,808 (51.2%), SDP 11,808 (51.2%), Conservatives 11,808 (51.2%).

Ronald Faux

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Plymouth, Devonport

Dockyard holds casting vote

CANDIDATES

Plymouth, Devonport
David Owen
Julian Priestley
Ann Widdecombe

Profile of Plymouth, Devonport

1981 % Own Occ	40.8
1981 % Loc Auth	48.3
1981 % Black/Asian	34.4
1981 % Mkt cl	7.3
1981 % Prof man	61,408
1982 % electorate	
1979 % BBC/ITN national result	Lab 2,808

Dr David Owen, who chose Plymouth, Devonport, for Labour in 1979 faces a formidable task to hold the seat under the Alliance banner which, opinion polls suggest, is looking pretty tattered in the naval dockyard city.

Apparently well back in third place behind the two other parties, Dr Owen was unusually subdued at his first press conference in the city where Labour believes he is about to be punished for his defection to the SDP and disinclination to fight a by-election.

Dr Owen conceded that he faced a tough, uphill struggle and said: "My problem is that the extent of what has happened to the Labour Party nationally has never been mirrored in Plymouth. It is no good trying to pretend it has been infiltrated by Militants or the hard left. It is not the case at all."

Dr Owen's obvious predicament, however, does not mean a clear run for Labour. Its moderate and well-liked candidate, Julian Priestley, faces a strong challenge from the Conservatives' Miss Ann Widdecombe, especially if the Labour vote is split. That is in spite of boundary changes that have drawn in apparently

patches and is clearly intent on a high profile campaign. She has seized on the dockyard issue claiming that remarks by a Labour defence spokesman have thrown doubt on the transfer of work to Devonport from dockyards at Chatham and Portsmouth.

Mr Priestley and his officials regard the Tory campaign over the dockyard as being cheap, pointing out that a Labour government extended its work to include a submarine refitting base and a frigate complex and that it was the Conservatives who cut the size of the Navy.

The Labour candidate said the dockyard's future was assured, but there are early signs that the party knows that it has a hot issue on its hands.

Mr Priestley, aged 32, an administrator with the European Parliament, believes, however, that the Conservatives will maintain a high vote in Devonport, even though the constituency should support a Labour majority of six or seven thousand "in normal circumstances".

He will fight hard on unemployment, which is 17 per cent in Plymouth, but his support of the party's unilateralist nuclear stand could make him vulnerable in an area dominated by the presence of the dockyard.

Miss Widdecombe, aged 35, a senior administrator at London University, describes herself as a Tory dry "with some damp

patches" and is clearly intent on a high profile campaign. She has seized on the dockyard issue claiming that remarks by a Labour defence spokesman have thrown doubt on the transfer of work to Devonport from dockyards at Chatham and Portsmouth.

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Craig Seton

ELECTION JUNE 83 Thatcher gale warning • Healey on warpath • SDP castigated • Brent pact

Thatcher cautions Tory troops to expect rough with the smooth

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher alerted Conservative Party workers to the danger of overconfidence yesterday, telling them to expect a rough passage at some time during the election campaign and to stay calm when it came.

The fear among senior Conservatives that their strong lead in the polls may encourage some voters to flirt with the Alliance was evident in the cautious warning that the Prime Minister, in a buoyant form, gave to the staff at Tory Central Office.

Workers assembled in the newly refurbished conference room were told by Mrs Thatcher: "I hardly need stress to you how critical these next three weeks are. They will shape the whole of our future from June 9 onwards."

She continued: "You will read the opinion polls. So do I. Having fought together - we are quite a seasoned army - we know that somewhere in the middle of the campaign there will be a very rough passage. That is the point of time where we all have to stay absolutely calm and absolutely together, to get the answers out and go on putting our policies to the people."

Mrs Thatcher said that she was cautiously optimistic, that was the right way to approach

the election. "We believe passionately in our policies. We believe passionately that they are right for Britain. We shall work to see that we are returned on June 9 so that we will have the second of what I hope will prove to be more than two terms."

She said the party had a duty both to put forward its own positive policies and to show how disastrous the Labour manifesto, if implemented, would be for Britain. She had read it twice, she said, and had come to realize how extreme it was and how far it departed from everything that previous Labour leaders and governments had done.

Mrs Thatcher's election tour, which begins on Friday, will not be as heavily concentrated on the marginal seats as in 1979, when she visited 39 of the 81 constituencies on the so-called "critical list".

She told her planners of her desire to visit strong Tory areas. As a result, her heavy schedule will be divided almost equally between the marginals and the heartlands.

For security reasons, detailed plans for her tour are not being given, but it is known that she will be travelling to most parts of the country, speaking two days in the West Country and

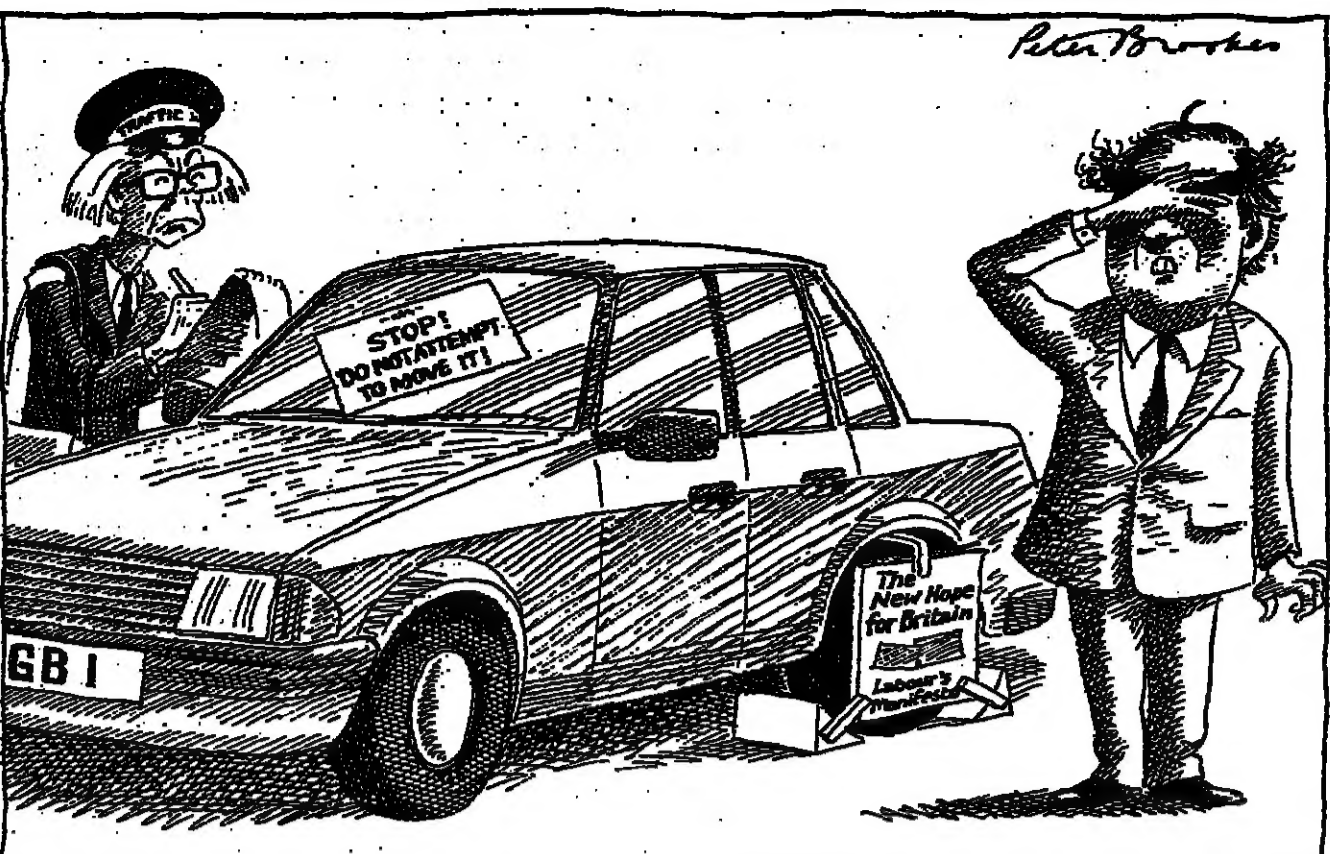
Wales and single days in East Anglia, Scotland, the East Midlands, West Midlands, the South East and North West, as well as campaigning in her Finchley constituency in London. The tour will be broken by her trip to the Williamsburg summit in the United States.

Mrs Thatcher, who will be accompanied by her husband and daughter, is expected to make about half dozen keynote speeches during the tour, and another at her adoption meeting in Finchley tomorrow night.

She will be travelling by air, coach, car and helicopter. A BAC 1-11 has been chartered by the party for some £60,000 from British Island Airways. A press party of about 50 will accompany her.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, chairman of the Conservative Party, said in a broadcast yesterday: "Four years ago this Government accepted a task that appeared almost impossible. Our country had been slowly declining for years. To reverse this decline was not something that could be accomplished easily. It required courage and perseverance."

"But we are now beginning to see the first fruits. British industry is confirming that the recovery is underway."



Labour's magic 'a myth'

No party except the Communists had ever published "such a wholesale attack" on British business and management, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

Mr Tebbit said that Labour's "magic" was really a myth. He said that the Labour leader would be trying to create jobs had been tried by the Callaghan government, and it had failed.

Speaking to officers of the Chingford Conservative Association in his Essex constituency, Mr Tebbit said the Labour leader would be trying to create jobs had been tried by the Callaghan government, and it had failed.

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Healey upholds team spirit

From John Winder, West Bromwich

The difference between the Conservative and Labour parties is a one-woman band and a team, Mr Denis Healey, Deputy leader of the Labour Party, said at an election meeting in West Bromwich yesterday.

"She does not seem to have the slightest confidence in her colleagues," he declared. Mrs Thatcher did not trust any of them to behave while she was away. She had claimed there was no need for a consensus in her Cabinet. She said one word and her colleagues went down on their knees.

She had already told the press through public relations officers that if she won power again poor old Willie Whitelaw and Francis Pym would go to the kitchen's yard. Mr James Prior might have a stay of execution because she had already sent him to a power station in Mongolia - or was it Northern Ireland?

"It is dangerous to put the destiny of a party or a country in the hands of a single person, even one more sensitive and less pig-headed than the Prime Minister," he said.

Energy policy to boost jobs

Thousands of jobs for semi-skilled and unskilled workers will be created if Labour comes to power through the party's energy conservation programme, Mr John Smith, the party's energy spokesman, claimed yesterday (Our Political Editor writes).

Speaking at the party's London press conference, he said: "The aim would be to insulate most of Britain's housing, starting with a large public sector programme for council houses. People will be recreated from the debt queues instead of being paid to do nothing."

The difference between the Tories and Labour was that Labour was a team with Michael Foot, Roy Hattersley, Eric Varley and Mr Healey - all household names. They were fighting as a team and when they had won the election would run the country as a team.

"You cannot do anything worthwhile in a democratic country unless government and people are working shoulder to shoulder."

The Conservative election manifesto would be published tomorrow. It was a forgery, this weekend there might be a leading article in *The Sunday Times* by that great historian, Lord Dacre, explaining that when he first read it he thought it was genuine but now realized that it was a forgery because it said just the same things as the last Tory manifesto which they knew was a forgery. In that Mrs Thatcher had said they would create real jobs in Britain but they had trebled unemployment and no one knew that better than people in the West Midlands.

"We need seats in the West Midlands because we cannot win a majority without them. We need a majority next time. We do not want another minority government dependent upon a Liberal rabble without a leader with every vote that passes."

Mrs Thatcher's real crime against the country was that she had set out deliberately when she took office to destroy the self-confidence in the British people, to turn them into a uniform mass of sullen sub-men meekly acquiescent in everything the Government said.

Geoffrey Smith



COMMENT

Is the principal purpose of a general election to choose a Prime Minister or a government? Both Labour and the Alliance are putting the emphasis on the team at the top. At their first press conference on Monday Labour fielded Mr Foot, Mr Healey and Mr Shore, with Mr Healey and Mr Shore taking their full share of the questions. Yesterday, while Mr Foot was in Lancashire, Mr Healey, Mr Shore and Mr John Smith were on parade, together with Mr Sam McCuskie as chairman of the party.

The Alliance has also been ringing the changes at its conferences. On Monday it was Mr Steel and Mr Jenkins. Yesterday it had Dr Owen and Mr Penhaligon. This morning it will be Mr Steel and Mr Rodgers. On no occasion this week will the entire team be fielded.

In principle it must be right to put forward a collective leadership. Although the power of the Prime Minister had been increasing, and although Mrs Thatcher has become a particularly dominant Prime Minister, we do not yet have presidential government in this country. The electorate senses this and has shown in 1945, 1970 and 1979 that it is not prepared to give office to a party simply because it had the most popular leader.

Making a virtue out of weakness

One of the ways the Conservatives might trip themselves up in this campaign would be by relying too heavily and too obviously upon Mrs Thatcher's personal appeal. The hesitation over whether to attend the Williamsburg summit gave the impression that she doubted if the party could get by without her even for a couple of days. She intends to take the chair herself at most of the morning press conferences, flanked by the chairman of the party and at least one other senior minister. Perhaps she will often refrain from taking the leading part on these occasions, but one would not want to bet on that.

Yet while the approach of Labour and the Alliance is preferable in principle, it is one which they have both adopted from necessity. They have stumbled into making a virtue of their own weakness.

Labour is pushing forward the reason of the team because it has saddled itself with the least impressive leader in the eyes of the electorate. There was that remarkable poll by MORI for BBC's *Parliamentary Programme* last week suggesting that Labour would be running neck-and-neck with the Conservatives if Mr Healey were leader.

So it must be in Labour's interest to make it seem that only a political pedant would fuss about Mr Foot being Prime Minister in a Labour government. One of the principal tests of the party's campaign will be how far it can convey the impression that, if Labour were elected, he would be required not so much to run an administration as to preside benignly over a team of stars.

Census clues to voting intentions

By Our Political Editor

A mass of detailed information about different social and economic characteristics of every parliamentary constituency in Great Britain, compiled from the census, is published today by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

As well as detailed statistics about the population, including familiar classifications by age, occupation, birth and housing tenure, new material includes analysis of how voters travel to work, their higher educational qualifications and other characteristics not previously shown in census monitors.

The tables are full of interest for those searching for votes. They show for example that Brent South, in north London, has the highest proportion of black and Asian households, that is those in which the head

was born in the new Commonwealth or Pakistan. They constitute 45.7 per cent of all households.

Eastington, co Durham, has the smallest proportion, 0.2 per cent. Penrith, the seat of Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has only marginally more, with 0.3 per cent.

Most black and Asian voters have in the past been strong supporters of the Labour Party.

Net population changes in the 10 years to 1981 brought the greatest proportional increase to Milton Keynes (87.25 per cent), and the biggest loss to Glasgow, Central (40 per cent).

The proportion of electors in the professional and managerial groups is described by Mr Robert Waller in his *Almanac of British Politics* as the "best predictor of the Labour and Conservative shares of the vote

- the higher the percentage, the more Conservative a seat is likely to be."

The census monitors show that the highest proportion of professional and managerial households, those whose heads are in the Registrar-General's socio-economic groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 13, are in Essex, in the Surrey stockbroker belt (46 per cent). The lowest proportions are all in the old city centres with Glasgow Provan (2.4 per cent) at the bottom.

The figures for housing tenure, another widely used indicator of voting behaviour, shows that Castle Point, in Essex, has the highest proportion of owner-occupiers (84 per cent) and Southwark and Bermondsey the lowest, at 2.4 per cent of households.



Mr David Marquand (above), a former Labour MP and minister, and now a university professor, has been adopted as the Alliance candidate for the High Peak of Derbyshire. He was adopted at a joint meeting of local Liberal and SDP members.

SDP 'day before yesterday's men'

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Conservative Party yesterday issued a scathing attack on the Social Democrats, describing their leaders as "the day-before-yesterday's men".

A briefing handbook for party candidates, *Politics Today*, said: "The Liberal-SDP Alliance is formed from two indifferent scraps of political parties. The Liberals can draw on a long history and a radical tradition. The Social Democratic Party has no history and no tradition: it is a product of the internal struggles of the Labour Party."

The booklet, produced by the Conservative Research Department, commented on SDP membership: "In the country at large, the SDP has attracted malcontent from the Labour Party, particularly those dispossessed by left-wing constituency cliques."

It added: "The leadership of the SDP may be described as the day-before-yesterday's men. They see themselves as the heirs of Atlee."

On the Liberals, it said: "From its inception, the Liberal Party has been an uneasy coalition composed of many differing factions and interest groups. Old-fashioned Whigs, descendants of so-called religious non-conformity and exponents of laissez faire, find themselves allied to 'communitarian politicians' and 'politicians of protest'."

"But the party must now be seen as having a place on the left of the political spectrum, as the Lib-Lab pact of 1977-78 showed."

The booklet said that the Alliance with the SDP had not been marked by fraternal

goodwill; there had been disagreements between the leaders of the two parties and activists had been even more hostile to one another.

"The lack of that 'true spirit of partnership' for which the Alliance is supposed to stand has nowhere been more evident than in the squabbles which have occurred over the division of constituencies," the Tory researchers said. A legacy of bitterness had also been left by the differences over Alliance leadership.

As for policy, the booklet said that the Liberal approach was somewhat haphazard. It was often difficult to identify the party's position on a given issue.

"Moreover, in so far as it is possible to identify joint policies, they are generally those of yesterday."

● Mrs Thatcher should announce at the Williamsburg summit that Britain would be willing to put its nuclear missiles into the Geneva disarmament negotiations, Mr David Steel, joint leader of the SDP-Liberal Alliance, said in Scotland last night (Michael Knipe writes from Galashiels).

The Prime Minister should go to the summit determined to use all Britain's authority to secure real international economic expansion and disarmament.

● Victory for Mrs Thatcher would leave Britain with the most right-wing government in the Western world, Mr Roy Jenkins, Prime Minister designate of the Alliance, said in Stockton-on-Tees yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Alliance Welsh plan launched

The SDP/Liberal Alliance claimed yesterday that it could win between 12 and 15 of Wales's 38 seats. Launching its programme for Wales, the Alliance emphasized its first priority would be to reduce unemployment with plans to create 60,000 jobs over the next two years.

Party leaders discounted claims that the Alliance was trailing fourth behind Plaid Cymru after poor results in the local elections, and said its first task was to provide hope, training and employment, particularly for the young.

Sever's fight

Mr John Sever the Labour moderate who was ousted from his Birmingham, Ladywood, constituency by left wingers, is to fight Meridian in Warwickshire for the party. He was chosen from a short list of five to contest the seat won by Conservatives in 1979 with a majority of 4,127.

WRP choice

Mr George McKinlay, aged 24, a BL shop steward at the strike-bound Allport plant in Glasgow, has been named as a candidate for the Workers Revolutionary Party to fight the Greenock and Port Glasgow seat.

Couple's clash

Brian McDermott, an actor, who is standing as an independent candidate for the Isle of Wight, has discovered that his wife, Joanna, will be canvassing against him for the Conservatives.

Visit postponed

A planned visit by the Princess of Wales to Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on June 9 has been postponed until June 10.

Property

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Mr Reginald Freeson (right) with his agent, Mr John Ryan (left) handing in his nomination yesterday.

Peace is declared in Brent

By Rupert Morris

The letter shows the depth of concern among party leaders about the potential damage the local party might have done, possibly forcing its disbandment, by continuing its defiance.

Mr Mortimer ended with an appeal for help in Mr Freeson's campaign, and gave the telephone number of his agent, Mr John Ryan. Yesterday Mr Ryan's telephone was ringing constantly with offers of support.

Mr Colin Adams, chairman of the Brent East branch, was unwilling to make any public statement until after this evening's meeting of the general committee, first called as a reselection conference, now expected to call off the attempt.

Mr Adams was given a rough reception on Monday night by his branch, which made it clear that it had no interest in nominating a candidate, and was scathing about the general committee's decision last week to press ahead in defiance of the national executive. Branches in Brent East have received many messages from other branches, many of strong left-wing convictions, urging them to call off the dispute in the interest of fighting the election.

Mr Mortimer, general secretary of the Labour Party, pointed out the clause in the constituency rules which stipulates that when reselection has not been completed and a general election is called, the sitting MP becomes the automatic candidate.

He added: "May I now urge you, in the interests of the Labour Party, to give your support to the Labour candidate, Reg Freeson? He has been a good and energetic Labour MP, and his return is essential to contribute to the election of a Labour government committed to the usual tests of the party."

Alliance can soften Tory policies, Rodgers says

BROADCASTING

The SDP-Liberal Alliance could provide the only effective way to soften and modify some of the dangerous tendencies of a re-elected Conservative government, Mr William Rodgers of the SDP said on the BBC's *Election Call* yesterday.

Asked about the possible voters' fear of a hung Parliament if they voted for the Alliance, Mr Rodgers said: "The Labour Party has not got a future. It has been suffering a terminal decline and the real question is whether one day you would like to see an SDP-Liberal Alliance government, next time or soon afterwards, and whether you would like an effective opposition to a Conservative government led by Mrs Thatcher or led by anybody else."

He urged people to vote according to their convictions and conscience and not to make calculations about how that would effect the old political parties.

"We are fighting to form the next government of Britain but were that not to happen the country desperately needs an effective Opposition and that is what we could provide."

● There had undoubtedly been a change in the conduct of economic policy by the Government, Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, said in an interview on Radio 4's *The World at One*.

It had started with the simple monetarist idea that all you had to do was to fix the money supply and everything else was going to follow, he said. "Now we find that the Bank of England from time to time is intervening as far as the rate of sterling is concerned and undoubtedly also the attitude towards interest rates has changed."

He said that if Mrs Thatcher decided to go to the Williamsburg summit she would be right.

● The reaction of the press to Labour's manifesto was predictable, Mr Peter Shore, Labour's chief spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said yesterday.

Speaking on *The World at One* he said he wanted "an honest, realistic and competitive" pound and not one that was artificial and dishonest, propped up by damagingly high interest rates.

Asked about the forthcoming Conservative advertising campaign poster inviting people to vote away 14 rights by voting Labour, Mr Shore said the public could expect the most grotesque, yet subtle distortions from Saatchi and Saatchi.

● Mr Denis Healey, deputy leader of the Labour Party, accused the Conservatives of setting out "deliberately to destroy the self-confidence of our people". World experts said that another Conservative term of office would result in a further half million unemployed.

"Britain, under Mrs Thatcher, is on a journey to the graveyard, and with Mr Tebbit driving the hearse we will be there that bit faster."

The drift to nuclear war continued. Both sides already had enough atomic weapons to destroy the world ten times over but missile continued to be piled upon missile. Mrs Thatcher said there was no alternative and no hope.

Inability to solve leadership problem

The Alliance has so often proclaimed its faith in the principle of collective leadership that it is tempting to accept what it is doing at its own valuation. Yet, for all the ingenuity displayed in sharing responsibility between a Prime Minister-designate and a chairman of the campaign committee, these arrangements reflect the Alliance's inability to solve the leadership problem.

To distribute power among a team is one thing. But for a prospective government to be led into an election by a person who would not lead them in office is a logical absurdity. It is acceptable in this instance only because nobody believes that the Alliance is going to run the country, and it has come about only because Mr Jenkins has disappointed so many Liberals and Social Democrats with his leadership of the SDP. Otherwise he would be the sole, though not an autocratic, leader of the Alliance.

Is to task for the Alliance now is to give the impression that it has managed not only to share responsibility but also to develop a coherent power structure. It may not be asking us to elect a Prime Minister alone, but is it really offering a government?

Possession 'doctrine' applies to handlers Talaqs in UK and Kashmir not accepted

Regina v Ball (Anthony)
Regina v Winning
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Leonard
[Judgment delivered May 13]

The so-called "doctrine of recent possession" was applicable not only to persons found to be in possession of stolen goods but also to handlers in the sense of assisting others in the retention, removal, disposal or realization of stolen goods, within section 22(1) of the Theft Act 1968. The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Michael Anthony Ball, aged 22, of Briery Hill, West Midlands, and refusing an application for leave to appeal by Rosanna Jayne Winning, aged 25, of Peasmarsh, West Midlands, against conviction at Wolverhampton Crown Court (Judge Lee and a jury) on a joint count charging contravention of section 22(1) in that they "dishonestly undertook or assisted in the retention, removal, disposal or realization of certain stolen goods, namely, 30 Citizens Band transceivers by or for the benefit of another, knowing or believing the same to be stolen". The appellant was ordered to do 160 hours of community service; the applicant was conditionally discharged for 12 months.

Tried jointly with them was Martin Stephen Gordon, who was convicted of burglary in having entered as a trespasser a building in Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, Stourbridge, and stolen therein 122 Citizens Band transceivers. He received a two-year sentence. He did not appeal.

Mr Peter De Mille, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant and the applicant; Mr Malcolm Lee, QC for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that the burglary took place on the night of October 27-28, 1981 and within 48 hours Gordon, Ball and Winning were seen by police in an estate car driven by Gordon near Exeter. In the car were 30 of the transceivers.

At the trial none of the three gave evidence. There was evidence that Ball and Winning at least were assisting in the disposal of the goods for Gordon's benefit and that each had lied about how he or she had come to be dealing with them.

In directing the jury the judge said that, if a person had physical contact with stolen property, assisting someone else who had possession of it to dispose of it soon after it was stolen, that might call for an explanation and in the absence of some innocent explanation the jury were entitled to infer guilty knowledge, that the person charged knew or believed the property being dealt with was stolen property.

Mr De Mille submitted that common sense suggested that a person in control of recently stolen goods should be asked to account for his possession and an adverse inference could be drawn as to his state of mind if he did not give a credible explanation.

However, he submitted, such an inference was not to be drawn in the case of someone who had mere physical contact with the goods at a time when he was acting merely

under the directions of a person who had possession. Shortly, the submission was that the so-called "doctrine of recent possession" should apply only to those whom the jury found to be in possession of stolen property but should not apply to those who were merely handlers in the sense of assisting other people to retain, remove, dispose of or realize stolen property.

His Lordship said that the so-called "doctrine of recent possession" was misnamed. It had nothing to do with goods recently possessed but concerned the possession of goods recently stolen. It was not even a doctrine.

It was no more than an inference which a jury might or might not think it right to draw about the state of mind of a person charged, who was dealing in goods stolen not long beforehand. It was based on common sense.

Stolen goods frequently passed quickly from hand to hand. Many of those who dealt in them, knowing them to have been stolen, often told lies when asked to explain how the goods came into their possession. Others preferred to give no explanation. That had been the court's experience for generations.

So, when a person charged was found to have been in possession of goods recently stolen and either gave no explanation of how he acquired them innocently or gave an explanation which was patently untrue, it was the practice of judges to draw to the jury's attention that they might, if they thought it right, infer that he acquired them knowing or believing that they were stolen.

The innocent dealer had nothing to fear from that. He had no need to lie and would, in the nature of

things, be only too willing to give his explanation. Before the 1968 Act came into force there was no offence of handling. The offence under section 33 of the Larceny Act 1916 was "receiving", which meant receiving into possession or control stolen property knowing that it had been stolen.

The provision in section 22(1) of the 1968 Act, which created the offence of handling, was wider than the old offence and embraced two offences: (1) the old offence of receiving; and (2) the offence of assisting.

Inevitably every case in which the question of inference of guilty knowledge arose before 1968 was a case of receiving and, therefore, many of those cases turned on, or touched on, the question whether it could be said that the stolen goods passed into the possession or control of the person charged.

Save for the offence in *R v Slopeet* (1972) 1 QB 430, 433, which was unnecessary for the decision in that case, there was no direct authority on the point in *Mr De Mille's* submission. None of the textbooks to which reference was ordinarily made in such circumstances dealt with the submission save for *The Theft Acts 1968 and 1976* by Edward Grieve (4th edition (1982) para 1323).

Therefore, the matter had to be considered on principle and its one of logic.

There was, in the court's view, no reason in logic or justice why it should be permissible to draw the inference where the person charged had received stolen goods into his possession but impermissible to draw it when he had merely assisted somebody to deal with stolen goods. The distinction between the two

types of handling lay in the relationship between the person charged and the goods. In each his state of mind was the same.

It was in relation to his state of mind that the jury might think it right to draw the inference. Doubtless a receiver, knowing or believing that the goods were stolen, might sometimes enlist the assistance of someone without such knowledge or belief. However, such a person was not in peril from the inference.

If the innocent receiver had nothing to fear from it nor, a fortiori, had the innocent assistant. Any view other than that to which the court had come would lead to a wholly artificial position where a person charged faced alternative counts of handling by receiving and handling the same goods by assisting.

In view of section 27(2) (a) and (b) of the Theft Act 1968 the inferences which might have been drawn in cases under the old legislation could, now be drawn, exactly as one would expect. Any confirmation of the court's view was to be found in section 27.

The trial judge was correct in his direction about the evidence.

Mr De Mille took a second point, namely, that the judge had not told the jury that one of the essentials of the offence was dishonesty. It was inconceivable that the minds of Ball and Winning could be anything other than dishonest if they knew or believed that the goods were stolen. There was no misdirection on that point, or if there was, it was not a material misdirection in the particular circumstances of the present case.

Solicitors: Mr I. S. Manson, Birmingham.

Chamberly v Chamberly
Before Mr Justice Wood
[Judgment delivered May 13]

Two oral talaqs pronounced in England and in Kashmir by a Kashmiri with an acquired domicile in England were not recognized in the Family Division.

The first talaq took place in London on June 29, 1976 and was sought by the provisions of section 16(1) of the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 and the second talaq in Kashmir on May 12, 1978 was not "other proceedings" as provided by section 2(a) of the Recognition of Divorces and Legal Separations Act 1971.

Mr Justice Wood refused to recognize either talaq pronounced by Mr Khan Mohammed Chamberly and granted a decree nisi to his wife Mrs Bibi Saira Chamberly.

Section 16 of the 1973 Act provided: "(1) No proceeding in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man shall be regarded as validly dissolving a marriage unless instituted in the courts of law of one of those countries."

The 1971 Act provided: "2 Sections 3 to 5 of this Act [recognition of overseas divorces] shall have effect, subject to section 6 of this Act, as respects the recognition in Great Britain of the validity of overseas divorces and legal separations, that is to say, divorces and legal separations which—(a) have been obtained by means of judicial or other proceedings in any country outside the British Isles; and (b) are effective under the law of that country."

"3 (2) ... recognition by virtue of this Act ... of the validity of a divorce or legal separation obtained

outside the British Isles may be refused if, and only if—(a) it was obtained by one spouse—(i) without such steps having been taken for giving notice of the proceedings to the other spouse as, having regard to the nature of the proceedings and all the circumstances, should reasonably have been taken; or ... (b) its recognition would manifestly be contrary to public policy."

Mr Walter Ayles, QC, for the husband, Miss Davidson Lachher for the wife.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that there were two sets of proceedings before him. There was a petition filed by the wife seeking a divorce based on the husband's adultery and a petition by the husband seeking a declaration that the marriage had been dissolved prior to the wife's petition either by an oral talaq pronounced on June 29, 1976 or by a second oral talaq pronounced on May 12, 1978.

The husband was now aged 50 years and the wife was 46. They were born in Kashmir and married there in December, 1954. There were four children of the marriage—all now over 15 years.

The husband, an aircraft engineer, arrived in England in 1963 leaving wife and children behind in Kashmir. In 1965 the husband set up house with Hamida, the woman with whom he still lived and whom he hoped to marry and who had borne him two sons.

On June 29, 1976 the husband went to the mosque in Shepherd's Bush and pronounced an oral talaq three times in Urdu before two witnesses. By Muslim religious law that was sufficient effective divorce. There was no requirement for any notice to the wife.

It was decided that a written document should be made out recording the talaq and sent to the wife in Kashmir. His Lordship doubted whether the wife ever received that document but was satisfied that she had learnt about the divorce by early 1977.

In July, 1977 the wife arrived at Heathrow and went to live in a house owned by the husband. The wife was dissatisfied. Her husband remained with Hamida.

In February, 1978, following her complaint to the justices of her husband's desertion and failure to maintain, the justices found him in contempt and ordered him to pay an interim maintenance order of £5 a week.

On May 12, 1978 the husband went to Kashmir and once again pronounced talaq three times before two witnesses. In Kashmir only the classical Islamic law applied. The Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961 did not apply.

In Kashmir an oral talaq pronounced three times before two witnesses was effective as a final divorce. There was no requirement for a wife to be given notice.

The husband had maintained that he had retained his domicile of origin in Kashmir. However the court had to look to the surrounding circumstances.

All his assets were in England. He was deeply attached to Hamida. She was a professional woman and his Lordship doubted that she would want to live in Pakistan with all its uncertainties. His Lordship was sure

that the husband would not go to Pakistan without Hamida. His Lordship was satisfied that by 1976 the husband had acquired a domicile of choice in England and Wales.

Since 1976 he had been anxious to rid himself of his wife and financial responsibility for her so he had a motive for saying that he had the intention to return to Pakistan.

Mr Ayles had placed greater reliance on the second talaq pronounced in Kashmir, and had submitted that the talaq fell within the words "other proceedings" in section 2(a) of the 1971 Act.

It had been submitted that a "bare" talaq was a proceeding because of the requirement that there must be three pronouncements before two witnesses.

Reliance was placed on the words of Lord Scarman in *Qureshi v Qureshi* (1980) AC 744, 824: "... I construe section 2 as applying to any divorce which has been obtained by means of any proceeding, in any act or acts officially recognized as leading to divorce in the country where the divorce was obtained, and which itself is recognized by the law of the country as an effective divorce."

Lord Scarman seemed to his Lordship to be expressing the general principle applicable upon his interpretation of the statutory provisions. The passage did not indicate that Lord Scarman took the view that a "bare" talaq came within the words "other proceedings".

His Lordship found no reason to alter the view he took of a "bare" talaq in *Qureshi* (at p 776). The talaq pronounced in Kashmir was not entitled to recognition under the 1971 Act. The wife had a domicile of choice in England and Wales and the provisions of section 6 had no application.

The first talaq took place in London. That talaq was caught by the provisions of section 16(1) of the 1973 Act.

The sub-section was enacted to overrule the decision in *Qureshi v Qureshi* (1972) Fam 173.

Mr Ayles had argued that if a "bare" talaq was not within "other proceedings" of the 1971 Act then it was not a "proceeding" within section 16(1) of the 1973 Act.

His Lordship said that section could have said that no divorce in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man should be valid to dissolve a marriage unless the decree was obtained through a process in the courts of law of one of those countries.

His Lordship had a discretion to refuse recognition either under the 1971 Act or the common law on the ground of public policy. The doctrine of public policy was a creature of the common law. Bearing in mind all the circumstances, recognition of either talaq would be refused on the ground of public policy.

Solicitors: Raphael Teff & Co, Maurice Nadeem & Co.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Breath test refusal not reasonable

McGrath v Vias
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann
[Judgment delivered May 12]

A genuine but mistaken belief by a defendant that a police officer was not acting bona fide and did not have an honest belief that the defendant had been driving a motor car did not constitute a reasonable excuse for failing to provide a breath test within the meaning of section 8(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1972.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing Stella McGrath, the defendant's appeal by case stated against her conviction by the Willesden Justices on March 23, 1982.

Mr Richard Slove for the defendant; Mr Andrew Turton for the prosecutor.

MR JUSTICE MANN, giving the judgment of the court, said that the justices had found that at 11pm on June 15, 1981, a Ford Escort car had been involved in a road accident.

Ten minutes later, acting on information received, the prosecutor, Police Constable Kevin Vias, had been to an address where the door had been opened to him by the defendant, who wore a dressing gown and who was drunk. The

constable had invited her out into the street to take a breath test. The defendant had refused. The constable had then arrested her for failure to provide a breath test.

The justices had been of the opinion that the constable had had reasonable cause to believe that the defendant had been driving the car involved in the accident, and that that belief had been founded on reasonable grounds. He had been carrying out his duties in a bona fide manner and the arrest had therefore been lawful.

The justices had concluded that the defendant's belief that the whole procedure was unnecessary if she had not been the driver did not constitute a reasonable excuse for refusing to provide the breath test, and they had convicted her accordingly.

His Lordship then referred to section 8(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1972. Mr Slove had contended that it would have been a "reasonable excuse" for the purposes of section 8(3) if the defendant bona fide believed on reasonable grounds that the constable had been acting mala fide, and had no reasonable cause to believe that she had been driving or attempting to drive the vehicle involved in

the accident. That the constable had been acting bona fide was irrelevant.

Mr Slove had relied on the words of Mr Justice Cave in *R v Tolson* (1980) 23 QBD 168, 181: "At common law an honest and reasonable belief in the existence of circumstances which if true would make the act for which a prisoner is indicted an innocent act has always been held to be a good defence."

His Lordship said that the expression "reasonable excuse" in the 1972 Act had been considered on many occasions.

In *R v Leonard* (1973) 1 WLR 483 the Court of Appeal had held, at p 487C, that "no excuse can be adjudged a reasonable one unless the person from whom the specimen is required is physically or mentally unable to provide it or the provision of the specimen would entail a substantial risk to his health."

In *R v Reid (Phillip)* (1973) 1 WLR 1283, the Court of Appeal had rejected an argument that a defendant had a reasonable excuse if he thought that a constable had no power to request a specimen of breath unless there had been an accident, a moving traffic offence

or a suspicion of drink from a person's manner of driving.

In the light of the authorities, his Lordship believed that the best approach to the question was to ascertain first whether there had been a valid request to provide a specimen.

A request was valid if (1) an accident had occurred; and (2) the request was made by a constable in uniform, and who (3) had reasonable cause to believe that the person requested had been driving or attempting to drive the motor vehicle at the time of the accident.

Where those preconditions had been satisfied, the only remaining question was whether the defendant, without reasonable excuse, had failed to provide a breath test. That assumed the request had been valid, and the defendant's belief at the time of the request that it was invalid was not material.

Accordingly, in their Lordships' judgment, the provisions of section 8 did not admit of an insertion into them of the common law principle for which Mr Slove had contended, and the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Somers & Leyne, Ealing; Metropolitan Police Solicitor.

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3. I am prepared to see the Police Force placed under political control even though it could undermine their capability to keep law and order.

4. I agree that Britain should now abandon the nuclear deterrent which has preserved peace in Europe for nearly forty years. I fully understand that the Russians are not likely to follow suit.

5. I agree to have the value of my savings reduced immediately in accordance with Labour's wishes to devalue the pound.

6. I empower the government to borrow as much money as they wish from other countries and I agree to let my children pay the debt.

7. I fully agree to a massive expansion of nationalisation, whatever the cost to me in higher taxation.

8. I do not mind if I am forced to join a union. I do not expect to vote for the leaders of that union and do not mind if I am not consulted by secret ballot before being told to strike.

9. I sign away the right to buy my own council house.

10. I do not mind paying higher rates.

11. I am prepared to allow my pension fund to be used by the government to invest in any scheme that they see fit whether or not this shows a good enough return on my investment.

12. I understand that Labour's plans could mean that prices will double once more, as they did under the last Labour government.

13. I realise that the tax cuts from which I will have benefited under a Conservative government may be withdrawn at once.

14. I waive my right to choose any form of private medicine for my family.

15. I understand that if I sign this now I will not be able to change my mind for at least five years.

SIGNED.

CONSERVATIVE ☒

The arms race: US and Russia resume INF talks as chemical weapons debate intensifies in Washington

Congress ready to block Reagan proposal for production of nerve gas

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

For the second successive year, Congress is poised to reject a request by the Reagan Administration for funds to resume production of chemical weapons.

Although the United States possesses huge stocks of nerve gas and other deadly chemical weapons — sufficient to kill every human being on Earth, according to Mr Ed Bethune (Republican, Arkansas) — no new ones have been produced since former President Nixon announced in 1969 that the United States would stop making chemical and biological weapons.

However, the Administration, concerned that the Soviet Union is building up a big chemical weapons advantage, has been trying to resume production for the past two years. In particular, the Administration wants to start building a new breed of "binary" weapons in which the two chemicals which produce the lethal nerve gas are stored in separate containers and are mixed only just before firing. The Administration has adopted a similar approach to chemical weapons as it has to intermediate-range nuclear missiles. It maintains that the Soviet Union will seriously consider signing an effective treaty banning chemical weapons only when, in the words of President Reagan, the United States has "reestablished a credible retaliatory chemical capability essential to an adequate deterrent". Hence the Administration's request for almost \$1bn (£666m) for chemical warfare in the Pentagon's budget for the fiscal year 1984.

The lion's share is for defensive equipment against a chemical attack and Congress will have no difficulty in approving the funds requested.

However, it is \$194m being sought to resume production which is likely to be met by a firm congressional "No" when the Department of Defence Authorization Bill is debated by the House of representatives later this week.

The campaign is being led by Mr Bethune, in whose state is situated the Pine Bluffs plant, where the weapons would be made.

Mr Bethune is no liberal on defence matters and is an opponent of the campaign for a nuclear weapons freeze. But on this aspect of the arms race he believes the United States should retain its present high moral ground.

In a letter to the President (and also during a House debate earlier this month) Mr Bethune argued that the United States has a golden opportunity to show the world the sharp contrast between American and Soviet policy on these weapons. He said that, whereas there had been a *de facto* production freeze in the United States for the past 14 years, the Soviet Union had not only gone on producing such weapons but had been using them in Afghanistan and South-East Asia.

"The world perception of the United States may be that we are partners in crime with the Soviets when it comes to nuclear weapons, but it doesn't have to be that way with chemical weapons," he said.

Last year Mr Bethune tabled an amendment against a resumption of production which was approved in the House by 251 to 159. He expects an even larger margin of support this time.

The mood in Congress has been reinforced by a new report by the General Accounting Office which has said that the

new binary bomb, known as "Bigeye", may not work as advertised and may present new safety problems. One of the supposed advantages of binary weapons is that they are safer to handle and transport than unitary ones.

The report found there were a "multitude of unanswered questions related to chemical warfare modernization" and expressed concern that binary weapons could make an eventual chemical weapons agreement more difficult to verify.

The Administration, which plans to spend between \$6bn and \$7bn over the next five years improving the United States chemical weapons capability, appears determined not to be put off by congressional resistance. The Army has been carrying out a massive lobbying campaign which has included testimony by Dr Theodore Gold, the Pentagon's chief chemical weapons specialist, who pointed out that more than 70 per cent of existing United States stocks were either unserviceable or in need of extensive renovation.

Even if Congress were to approve a resumption of production, there would still be the question of deployment. The most obvious theatre for their deployment would be West Europe, but America's Nato allies have refused to allow storage of new chemical weapons on their soil.

Dr Gold said no decisions had been taken on deployment and that the weapons would be sent overseas only "after full consultation with the nations involved." Some Pentagon officials clearly believe it will be considerably easier to deal with Nato governments than it is with their own legislators.



Talking again: Mr Yuli Kvitsinsky greeting Mr Paul Nitze of the United States at the Soviet mission in Geneva when the arms negotiations resumed yesterday.

More flexibility at Geneva

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Mr Nitze at 76 is 30 years the Russian's senior — posed for the cameras but avoided the microphones.

Mr Nitze had already indicated that his top priority was trying to persuade the Russians of the merits of the Reagan proposal, irrespective of its having been publicly rejected in *Priroda*. He has also made the point that there is "more latitude" now in the mandate he has from the Administration than at any time since the negotiations started 18 months ago.

Possible flexibility on the Soviet side also is implied in Mr Yuri Andropov's recent proposal that the count in an

East-West tactical nuclear balance be based on warheads rather than on delivery systems. Each of the 351 Soviet SS20s trained on Western Europe has three independently-targeted warheads.

Beyond that, however, the Russians continue to insist that the overall tally include not only aircraft with delivery capacity but also the independent British and French deterrents.

These are, respectively, 64 submarine-borne Polaris missiles with 102 warheads, not independently targetable, and 80 submarine-launched and 18 land-based missiles, all single warheads.

Carrington tipped for Nato post

From Frederick Bonmart Brussels

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, said yesterday that he understood it had almost been decided that Lord Carrington would be the next Secretary-General of Nato.

There have been a number of hints in the Belgian press that Mr Tindemans would like the post himself, but at the end of the annual meeting of the Council of the Western European Union of which he is this year's chairman, he denied all knowledge of his own candidature.

Dr Joseph Luns, aged 72, has been Secretary-General for almost 12 years and has until now always said that he had no intention of resigning. However, during an interview last week, he said that he had decided to leave, although he could not give the exact date.

Informed sources in Brussels consider it likely that he will not wish to leave until the stationing of American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe has been completed. He is therefore likely to announce his departure at the end of the year.

Mitterrand blames American policy for world recession

From Diana Coddie, Paris

As the dollar rose to a record on the foreign exchanges of 7.42 francs against the French currency, President Mitterrand yesterday attacked the American budget deficit and high interest rates for being one of the principal causes of the world economic recession.

The same theme is likely to dominate a two-day meeting starting in Paris today of the heads of six Socialist countries — France, Sweden, Finland, Greece, Portugal and Senegal — whose aim is to draw up a "Socialist response to the economic crisis" less than a fortnight before the summit of the seven main industrialized nations in Williamsburg, France is the only Socialist country that will be attending the summit.

At a press conference at the end of a two-day Franco-German summit, Mitterrand said it was "not right that the American budget should be paid by us, that that deficit should lead to high interest rates, and that the dollar, now at record levels, should be one of the causes of the world economic imbalance".

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, was much more restrained in his comments, saying simply that the economic situation in Europe was "influenced" by United States budget policy and high interest rates, and that the problem of the high value of the dollar would be the subject of intensive discussions at Williamsburg. He did not like to criticize the policies of a friendly country in its absence, he added.

In bilateral economic matters, some progress was made towards solving the problem of France's huge trade deficit with West Germany, which the French Government believes is in part due to restrictive German "technical norms", which it claims, impede the export of French products to Germany.

Herr Kohl said Bonn would try to deal with those norms immediately.

There was a complete identity of view on defence and security. Mitterrand and Herr Kohl both reaffirmed their backing for the Nato "dual-track" decision on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, insisting that, while they still hoped for a favourable outcome to the Geneva arms talks, they would support the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in the event of the breakdown of those negotiations.

Herr Kohl described the talks as intense, frank, sincere and friendly, and expressed his particular appreciation for the invitation to breakfast at Mitterrand's private home near Notre-Dame in the Latin Quarter, followed by an unexpected walk by the two heads of state in sparkling sunshine along the Boulevard St Germain, the scene of many of the recent violent disturbances between students and police.

The Chancellor flew home yesterday afternoon after lunch at the Elysee.

More strikes, page 16

Diplomats are spies, Quick says

Bonn (Reuters) — The right-wing magazine *Quick* yesterday named four Soviet diplomats working in West Germany whom it alleged were spies.

It accused a second secretary, Mr Yevgeny Shmagin, of trying to exert "Communist influence" in the West German anti-nuclear movement and a military attaché, Mr Viktor Marchenko, of trying to acquire technology secrets. *Quick* also alleged that two trade envoys, Mr Boris Koshchevnikov and Mr Oleg Shevchenko, were spies.

Sources close to the West German intelligence services said the report was true.

Mr Shmagin was at his desk in the embassy yesterday. He sounded shocked by the charges and said he had not read the report. He declined further comment. It was not clear whether the other three officials were still in West Germany.

The magazine said Mr Shevchenko, aged 37, was one of four Soviet spies uncovered recently by West German and other Western security services as "high security risks".

It said he betrayed himself when he inadvertently gave away a business card with a list of car registration numbers on the back. When the card was passed to West German intelligence, the numbers were found to be those of their own observation cars.

Mr Marchenko, an air attaché, aged 46, was described as a Soviet military intelligence agent, who had cultivated wide contacts in the Defence Ministry.

Compromise hope in Stern crisis

From Michael Blayton Hamburg

More than 1,000 journalists and staff from *Stern* and nine other magazines published by the Gruner and Jahr company repeated their demands at mass meetings yesterday for the resignation of Herr Gerd Schulte-Hillen, the board chairman, who has been most closely identified with the Hitler diaries fiasco. They also called for the resignation of Herr Henri Nannen and the two new editors appointed last week.

The publishers' representatives were due to meet *Stern* staff yesterday evening and were expected to offer a compromise to end the crisis at the magazine. Top managers are said to be "concerned at the severe damage to the reputation of *Stern* and by the possible serious financial consequences of the staff revolt.

Angry speakers at two packed meetings lasting almost all day attacked the management for incompetence and misjudgment over the diaries affair and for going behind the staff's backs in the swift appointment of the new editors.

Speaker did not deny the professional competence of Herr Peter Scholl-Latour and Herr Johannes Gross, but said they would not uphold *Stern's* left-wing political line. It is suggested that a possible compromise could include the nomination of another editor acceptable to the staff, but it seems clear that Herr Schulte-Hillen's continuation as chairman of the board is now in doubt.

Decade of torture in Pinochet's Chile

By Richard Dowden

Torture has been used constantly by the Pinochet regime in Chile since it overthrew the Government of Dr Salvador Allende in 1973, according to Amnesty International.

In a report published today, the human rights organization says that the Central Nacional de Informaciones, Chile's state security police, was chiefly responsible. It has at least one secret torture centre in Santiago.

The report, *Chile: Evidence of Torture*, is based on interviews and medical examinations of 19 former detainees in April and May of last year by an Amnesty mission to Chile which included two doctors.

The detainees said they were tortured at different times between March, 1980, and April, 1982, while in the custody of the Chilean secret police.

The report says the mission found no discrepancies between the detainees' complaints and their own findings.

Amnesty is particularly concerned by the conclusion that trained medical staff may have taken an active part in torture. It also concludes that emergency legislation now in force in Chile allows torture to continue and the Chilean courts take no effective action to prevent it.

Among the cases Amnesty reports:

● A 19-year-old trainee social worker who was raped four times, tortured with electric shocks, then forced to lie beside a decomposing corpse. She was

told it was the body of the man she had lived with.

● A human rights worker who suffered from epilepsy was given electric shock torture after being tied naked to a metal bed. He claimed a doctor examined him between torture sessions.

● A 24-year-old carpenter said he was tortured for 16 days several times a day.

Amnesty concludes that the persistence and consistency of the allegations "have caused the organization to regard it as beyond reasonable doubt that the use of torture has been a constant feature of security force practice."

A spokesman for the Chilean Embassy in London said he had no immediate comment on the report.

Exiled Bolivian colonel held on drugs charge

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Colonel Luis Arce Gomez, the former Bolivian Interior Minister exiled in Argentina, has been arrested here. He faces extradition to the United States on drug trafficking charges.

Despite the lack of official information, it was revealed that Colonel Arce Gomez was arrested on Monday and, after a preliminary inquiry by court officials, was transferred to a Buenos Aires prison. The extradition request was transmitted through Interpol. Under existing Argentine laws, the colonel can be held for 45 days while the courts decide.

Colonel Arce Gomez became prominent in Bolivia after the 1980 military coup which brought a right-wing regime under General Luis Garcia Meza to power. He was widely accused of using his position as Interior Minister to run the cocaine export business.

Cabinet changes in La Paz are completed

La Paz (Reuters) — President Hernan Siles Zuazo of Bolivia last night completed a reshuffle of his fragile left-wing Cabinet.

Three ministers had resigned earlier this month, plunging the Government into its second political crisis since it ended 17 years of almost uninterrupted military rule seven months ago.

Last week Señor Marcial Tamayo, the presidential adviser, was appointed Foreign Minister. The new Minister of Rural Affairs is Señor Reynaldo Mercado, a peasants' leader, while Marcelo Barron Rondón took the portfolio of industry, commerce and tourism.

The Cabinet crisis coincided with stalemate talks between the Government and militant tin miners who have occupied the state-owned mining concern Comibol.

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PRODUCE OF FRANCE
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Walker claims British success

EEC farm prices rise by 4%

From Ian Murray
Brussels

Price rises for EEC farm products averaging a modest 4.2 per cent were finally agreed by agriculture ministers in Brussels early yesterday after 14 hours of hard bargaining. The settlement means at least an extra 8 per cent for French farmers, which it was hoped would be enough to stop their destructive border protests. It also was low enough to allow Mr Peter Walker, the British Agriculture Minister, to make the vote-catching claim that housewives would scarcely notice the increase.

Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC's Agriculture commissioner, said this was the first occasion he could remember that ministers had not pushed up the Commission's proposals. This, he felt, reflected the genuine concern that farm price rises could bankrupt the Community.

Commission sources estimated the total cost this year at about £260m, and a further £47m next year. According to Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the West German minister presiding, this money could be found within the Community's available resources this year, but tough measures to control surpluses would be needed next year if the EEC was not to run out of money.

This warning was clearly

EFFECT OF FARM DEAL

Country	% rise in prices for farmers	Long-term % impact on food prices
West Germany	2.0	0.8
France	8.4	3.8
Italy	8.8	3.7
Netherlands	2.8	1.1
Belgium	4.4	2.0
Luxembourg	3.9	2.4
United Kingdom	4.1	1.8
Ireland	8.1	5.0
Denmark	1.0	1.0
Greece	14.0	12.9
Community Average	5.5	2.8

The figures take account of green rate variations.

meant to concentrate further the minds of EEC foreign ministers due to meet in Brussels next Tuesday to discuss the size of the British budget rebate for 1983 and to seek a blueprint for future financing. The danger of running out of money next year has become that much more real as a result of the settlement.

Mr Walker said the settlement proved that the British Government had once again served both housewife and farmer well. He felt the increase for farmers was fair and was particularly pleased that some extra cash had been found for Britain's beleaguered pig breeders.

But he was most pleased that

the deal would put less than one halfpenny in the pound on food prices and would have virtually no effect on the cost of living index. Last year, he pointed out, food price increases caused by the settlement had added only 1 per cent to the inflation rate, compared with 1 per cent a fortnight under Labour.

He also claimed that food subsidies reaching the British housewife were in the region of £300m a year. Of this, £24m was in the form of a special butter subsidy worth 2p a lb. He had argued that it was better to increase the butter subsidy in this way than to provide money to help export butter to the Soviet Union.

Mr Walker felt he had done much better than M. Michel Rocard, his French colleague, who had been unable to get extra help for small farmers. In Mr Walker's view, France had suffered at the negotiating table as a direct result of the "irresponsible and illegal" actions of French farmers in destroying agricultural imports.

M Rocard, however, emerged to claim that he had won a "good agreement." Most important of all for French farmers, he said, he had been able to close the gap between the weak "green franc" and the strong "green mark", which will ease French food exports to West Germany.

Because the Commission had persuaded the Council that there was no point in pressing for higher price rises, the negotiations hinged on fixing new exchange rates for the green currencies.

The adjustments mean that French farmers will receive just over 8 per cent more on average. Britain and Denmark alone will receive rises roughly in line with the 4.2 per cent average. West Germany and Holland, with the strongest currencies in the Community, had to accept rises of about 1 per cent below the average. The other countries can expect rises of between 2.5 and 6 per cent above the average.

● LONDON: The National Farmers' Union said that the increase of 4 per cent was "not as bad as expected." Hugh Clayton writes. The Food Manufacturers' Federation, which represents grocery processors, said that the increase, the lowest for some years, showed welcome signs of restraint. But the federation still wanted reform of the common agricultural policy.

The impact on inflation will be negligible. The most conspicuous effects will be on dairy produce, like butter and cheese, which may soon go up by about 2p a lb. There will be small rises on sugar, bread, biscuits, cake and some meat.



Standing up to be counted: Supporters return President Moi's wave as he leaves Parliament after announcing the election.

Kenya calls election a year early

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Moi yesterday ordered parliamentary elections in September, a year before they are due. His decision followed an unprecedented political crisis which followed his recent announcement that an unnamed Kenyan was being groomed by a foreign power to become President.

At yesterday's meeting of the governing council of the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU), President Moi did not name the man he had referred to. But he said he stood by his original remarks.

The meeting, attended by 130 representatives of KANU from all parts of Kenya, took place in the parliamentary building behind closed doors, and lasted less than an hour.

President Moi said: "From the day I took over as President of this republic, I have appealed for unity, hard work and being mindful of people's welfare. I have also repeatedly emphasized the Njaye (footsteps) philosophy of love, peace and unity."

He was grateful to Kenyans who had supported his philosophy, but he had been concerned and disappointed with the performance of some ministers and top officials.

"At times some people have conducted themselves in a manner which leads me to question their loyalty to me as head of

state, to their Government and to this country", he said.

Because of their greed and selfishness, it had proved difficult to eliminate corruption and to reconstruct the country's economy.

"I am aware that some of these people have been playing some part in getting the external press to say some adverse things about our country," he added.

"It is absurd that some of these people I have appointed to senior positions have outwardly pretended to be loyal to me - and yet behind the scenes they have been using their positions to promote their selfish ambitions."

He said the patience he had shown since 1978 was exhausted. "From now on any leader or public officer who conducts himself in a suspicious manner will not only be required to resign or be dismissed, but will also face disciplinary action."

"I am determined to rectify the weaknesses which we have been witnessing in the Government because of the conduct of these evil-minded people. In order to clean the system I have therefore decided that all elected leaders, including myself, will seek fresh mandates from the electorate. General elections will take place in September."

President Moi said he would meanwhile embark on an exercise "to sort out

problems within the civil service." He added: "Our security forces are loyal and vigilant. They are ready all the time to defend the country, the people and the elected Government against any attempt to interfere with the smooth running of the Government." He gave no details of the problems within the civil service to which he had referred. Parliamentary elections in Kenya take place on a universal adult franchise. Although there is provision for the President to be elected in the same way, he has always been returned unopposed and this will again be the case in September, since President Moi, in his capacity as President of KANU, will be the party candidate.

Mr Charles Njonjo, the Minister for Constitutional Affairs, who had said on his return from Europe that he had never sought any post in Kenya with foreign support, was not present at yesterday's meeting.

The reaction of many Kenyans was one of surprise that no "traitor" had been named by President Moi. It is now likely that the hysteria of the past week, during which frequent calls have been made for the "traitor" to be named, will subside as preparations for the elections get under way.

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Father Jankowski: False allegations.

Protest at slurs on Walesa

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

A group of Polish shipyard workers, claiming to represent tens of thousands of employees throughout the Baltic coast, have lodged a strong protest about the government propaganda campaign against Mr Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader, and his priest. They have issued a veiled threat of industrial action should the attacks continue.

In a letter to the Sejm, the Polish Parliament, the workers say: "We warn that continued campaigns of this kind will encounter our tangible and severe response. The whole working class of the country will join us if we call upon them. Do not let anybody think that this warning can be treated lightly."

The letter, written on the official stationery of the construction and project department of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, has been signed by representatives of 13 shipyards and industrial plants.

Both Mr Walesa and his priest, Father Henryk Jankowski, have come in for sharp criticism from the official press. The idea seems to be to discredit the notion that the Government can be pressured into talking to the former union leader.

Solidarity, now outlawed, had hoped that the twin pressure of May Day demonstrations and the need to make some concessions before the papal visit next month would lead to some form of talks. The government has dismissed this and has responded by mocking Mr Walesa as a "sparrow posing as a hawk."

The workers' letter, which is also addressed to cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, makes clear that the Gdansk shipyards, where Mr Walesa now works as an electrician, is still behind the solidarity chairman.

The letter defends Father Jankowski against press allegations that his father had collaborated with the Germans during the war.

Catalan bank crash worries Madrid

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Government, which has done everything not to upset the country's private banking system, yesterday was faced by demands to nationalize Catalonia's stricken regional bank, the Banca Catalana.

The demands came from both the Socialist Party in Catalonia and the bank's own staff.

Employees of the Barcelona headquarters announced that it would stay open indefinitely, while colleagues were travelling by road to Madrid to stage a demonstration outside the

Prime Minister's office.

The bank's senior staff were reported to be almost unanimously against one plan which would involve selling off the Banca Catalana to a pool made up of Spain's leading private banks. Their attitude was publicly endorsed by Catalan economists' professional organization.

Señor Miguel Boyer, the Economics and Finance Minister, believed to have regarded the private rescue operation as cheaper for the state, now faces

antagonizing either the Madrid private bankers or his own Socialist Party reinforced.

A third possible solution, under which the Bank of Spain would consider a sale to "La Caixa", Catalonia's leading savings and pension bank, would conflict with a Socialist election pledge.

On Monday, the Catalan Socialist Party recommended that the Government nationalize the Banca Catalana and then gradually return it to Catalan public institutions.

Ecologists try to save wildlife from gun range

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

A few dozen farmers, professors and artists are fighting a quixotic battle to save a vast private estate, teeming with wildlife, from being turned into Europe's biggest aerial gunnery range.

They are few because the district in which the 60,000-acre estate is located - in the hills between Toledo and Ciudad Real - has a population of only 15,000. They have moral support, however, from many ecology-minded individuals and organizations in Spain and abroad, including the International Society for the Preservation of Birds under the presidency of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Their battle to save the Cabañeros area seems destined to failure because the Defence Ministry has apparently already bought the private hunting estate. Repeated sit-ins, marches and other protest actions have had little repercussion beyond Ciudad Real, the nearest city, which is 40 miles away from Alcala de los Montes, the township which includes Cabañeros.

In addition to being an old shooting ground for General Franco and his ministers, Cabañeros is the home of 40 pairs of imperial eagles, of which only a few hundred are thought to be left in the world. It also abounds in other wildlife including black storks, black vultures, deer, wild boar, lynxes, wildcats and rabbits.

The estate contains species found nowhere else, according to Professor Manuel Peinado of the University of Alcalá de Henares, where Cervantes once studied.

Professor Peinado wrote his doctoral thesis about the wildlife at Cabañeros. He argues that the bombardment of the area will alter the cycle by which the soil is regenerated, will destroy ground cover and lead to extensive erosion, with silt problems in rivers downstream. He says that highly combustible trees and shrubs will be destroyed by fire and much of the area will be turned into a desert, with no possibility of reestablishing the ecological balance.

Wildlife, he says, will be driven out of the area and possibly to extinction; even the birds of prey will suffer because their hunting grounds will be depopulated.

Ranchers in the surrounding area fear that the constant explosions and the roar of the aircraft will damage their livestock.

Spanish Air Force sources say the Cabañeros gunnery range will pay for itself in less than five years as a result of the fuel saved by aircraft which will use it. Cabañeros is more centrally located in relation to Spanish air bases than the smaller Las Bardenas range currently in use near Saragossa.

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state, to their Government and to this country", he said.

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Security papers to be published by approval only

From Tony Dubois
Melbourne

The Federal Government and the *National Times* weekly newspaper reached an agreement yesterday on the publication of three more articles in a series on Australia's security services.

In the High Court Sir Harry Gibbs, the Chief Justice, was told that the newspaper had undertaken to publish an approved version of the articles. The hearing followed an interim injunction granted to the Federal Government earlier this month to stop the newspaper publishing further articles based on secret intelligence documents.

The Federal Government has agreed to the publication of approved versions of the articles provided that the *National Times* does not publish any additional material.

Organized crime 'out of control' in Australia

Sydney (Reuters) - Organized crime, ranging from prostitution to horse race fixing and pornography, is out of control in Australia, according to an official report just out.

Controlling organized crime one of the challenges of the decade, Mr Douglas Meagher, a lawyer member of a royal commission investigating the activities of the Ship Painters and Dockers' Union said. He drew up the 213-page report, covering all forms of organized crime, as a discussion paper.

Hongkong has become the financial centre for a very large number of Australian criminal organizations, the Meagher report said.

It outlined some of the criminal activities: Australian criminals have developed a worldwide expertise in shoplifting and have made organized raids on London and other European cities; One or two

horse races are fixed somewhere in Australia on every racing day; Pornography, including the use of children, has become big business.

The report also said that organized crime receives a large income through fixed gambling games, such as dice and roulette; Australian girls are being supplied to brothels in Asia and the Pacific and girls from those regions are being brought to Australia.

Mr Meagher also alleged that one or two unions were involved in racketeering, including extortion from employers.

His report is to be discussed this week by a conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

The report states that much of Australia's pornography involves druged children filmed performing sexual acts.

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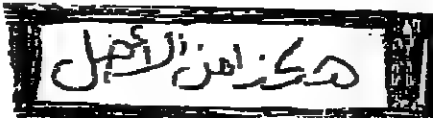
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The Middle East balance of power: Israel's second pact with an Arab neighbour provokes Damascus into swift retaliation

Syria cuts off roads to Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Syria responded angrily to the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal accord yesterday by ordering its Army to close all roads across Lebanon between the Israeli and Syrian front lines, claiming publicly that the Lebanese Government of President Gemayel had "lost its legitimacy".

Violent leading articles in the government-controlled press in Damascus - unparalleled in their ferocity even by Syrian standards - gave chilling warning that "nobody in the Lebanese authorities will escape punishment".

Syrian troops on the Beirut-Damascus highway at Sofar, just half a mile from the Israeli front line above Beirut, were the first to cut off communication between eastern Lebanon and the capital. They turned back all motorists trying to reach Beirut and then closed the mountain road through Hammama.

Just over an hour after Israeli and Lebanese delegates had attended the second signing ceremony at Kiryat Shmona, all telephone lines between Beirut and the Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanese town of Zahle, which pass through Syrian positions in the mountains, went dead. The telephone authorities in Beirut confirmed

the lines had been cut but could offer no explanation. On the face of it, yesterday's action by Syria is the gravest sign so far that Syria has no intention of softening its opposition to the withdrawal agreement. Over the past eight months, Israeli troops in the mountains above Beirut have often closed the international highway without warning for up to 24 hours. But if Syria refuses to reopen the roads within the next two days, it will have effectively started the partition of Lebanon.

Embassy bombs

Athens (AP) - A bomb went off outside the Syrian Embassy in an Athens suburb early yesterday and another at a nearby private school attended by children of Libyan embassy staff. A Syrian car was destroyed but no injuries were caused.

Only last week, Mr Elie Salameh, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, was in Damascus trying to persuade President Assad to accept the formula drawn up with the assistance of Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, for the Israeli Army to move out of Lebanon. Yet only yesterday, the authorities here were de-

nouncing the Lebanese Government as illegitimate.

The newspaper *Al Thawra* said that "those who cooperated with or surrendered to Israel by accepting the agreement will pay for what they have done". Echoing the same sentiment, the daily *Al-Bath*, the newspaper of the ruling Syrian Baath Party, announced that "nobody in the Lebanese authorities will escape punishment, whatever his position may be".

The Lebanese Government, the paper said, "has lost its legitimacy, as well as its capability and competence in directing the Lebanese people and becomes a full partner of Israel and the United States in their schemes against the Arab World".

Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, meanwhile expanded his Government's objections in an interview with the left-wing Beirut newspaper *As-Safir*. He claimed that the withdrawal agreement and the original Camp David accord between President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, were "two faces of one coin".

Mr Khaddam implied that President Gemayel had acted like Marshal Pétain, the wartime French leader.

Yesterday's events quite overshadowed the continuing divisions in the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organization, where guerrilla officers based in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon, have been demanding that Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, should refuse any further suggestions of a compromise peace with Israel.

It transpired yesterday that one reason for their disquiet was that Mr Arafat had appointed two new military commanders in the Bekaa. Both men had been PLO officers in southern Lebanon when the Israeli Army invaded last June, and both are believed to have fled their posts under fire.

Mr Arafat remained in Damascus yesterday but scrupulously avoided condemning the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement, commenting only that the PLO supported those Lebanese politicians who opposed the accord.

Syria may decide to reopen the roads across Lebanon today, treating the affair only as a further warning to the Lebanese Government. But if they are not freely open to all traffic, the Syrians will presumably consider some form of identity check, inevitably giving the front line the appearance of an international frontier.



Hands of peace: Dr David Kinche of Israel (left), Mr Antoine Fattal of Lebanon (right) and Mr Morris Draper, the US special Middle East envoy, joining hands after the signing of the Lebanon pact in Khalde.

Accord aims to prevent terrorism or aggression

Beirut (AP) - The following are extracts from the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement signed yesterday:

Article 1: The parties agree and undertake to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of each other. They consider the existing international boundary between Lebanon and Israel inviolable.

The parties confirm that the state of war between Lebanon and Israel has been terminated and no longer exists.

Article 2: Each party will prevent the existence or organization of irregular forces, armed bands, organizations, bases, offices or infrastructure, the aims and purposes of which include incursions or any act of terrorism into the territory of the other party, or any endangering the security of the other party and safety of its citizens.

Article 3: Each party will prevent entry into, deployment in, or passage through its territory, its air space and subject to the right of innocent passage in accordance with inter-

national law, its territorial sea, by military forces, armament, or military equipment of any state hostile to the other party.

Article 4: Except as provided in the agreement, nothing will preclude the deployment on Lebanese territory of international forces requested and accepted by the Government of Lebanon to assist in maintaining its authority. New contributions to such forces shall be selected from among states having diplomatic relations with both parties to the present agreement.

Article 5: Upon entry into force of the present agreement, a joint liaison committee will be established by the parties, in which the United States of America will be a participant and will convene its functions...

The joint liaison committee will address itself on a continuing basis to the development of mutual relations between Lebanon and Israel, inter alia the regulation of the movement of goods, products and persons, communications, etc.

Article 6: Each party will prevent entry into, deployment in, or passage through its territory, its air space and subject to the right of innocent passage in accordance with inter-

national law, its territorial sea, by military forces, armament, or military equipment of any state hostile to the other party.

Article 7: Except as provided in the agreement, nothing will preclude the deployment on Lebanese territory of international forces requested and accepted by the Government of Lebanon to assist in maintaining its authority.

New contributions to such forces shall be selected from among states having diplomatic relations with both parties to the present agreement.

Article 8: Upon entry into force of the present agreement, a joint liaison committee will be established by the parties, in which the United States of America will be a participant and will convene its functions...

The joint liaison committee will address itself on a continuing basis to the development of mutual relations between Lebanon and Israel, inter alia the regulation of the movement of goods, products and persons, communications, etc.

Article 9: Each of the two parties will take, within a time limit of one year as of entry into force of the present agreement, all measures necessary for the abrogation of treaties, laws and regulations deemed in conflict with the present agreement; subject

to and in conformity with its constitutional procedures. The parties undertake to apply existing obligations, enter into any obligations, or adopt laws or regulations in conflict with the present agreement.

Annex 1: Security arrangements Two Lebanese army brigades may be stationed in the security region (in Southern Lebanon). One will be the Lebanese Army territorial brigade stationed in the area extending from the Lebanese-Israeli boundary to "Line B" delineated on the attached map.

The existing local units will be integrated as such into the Lebanese Army, in conformity with Lebanese Army regulations. The existing local civil guard shall be integrated into the Lebanese auxiliary forces.

The process of extending Lebanese authority over these units and civil guard, under the supervision of the security arrangements committee, shall start immediately after the entry into force of the present agreement and shall terminate prior to the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.



Warning shot: A policeman fires into the air as two demonstrators against the Lebanon treaty grab a soldier in a Beirut suburb to stop him firing on fellow protesters.

Strike wave engulfs France

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Paris Metro and main line train services throughout France are expected to be severely disrupted today as members of the Force Ouvrière, one of the three largest trade union federations, hold a "day of action". The protest is against the Government's austerity measures and its alleged lack of consultation with the union.

The uneasy atmosphere of a government under siege is continuing as further strikes and demonstrations are announced.

Tomorrow, dockers and customs officials are due to hold 24-hour strikes, the former in pursuit of claims for higher pay, and the latter in support of demands for more jobs.

Meanwhile, secondary school teachers are continuing their fortnight of action in protest against inadequate educational resources, and gravediggers and funeral parlour workers in Paris pursue their strike in support of demands for better working conditions.

The results of a ballot of medical students, announced yesterday, showed a majority in

favour of accepting compromise proposals on Government plans to reform medical education, which were put forward last week by Government appointed mediators. It is, however, by no means certain that the vote will end the three-month strike by medical students.

The situation last night appeared confused with some students voting for the compromise package but against the resumption of courses, while others voted against the package but for the end of the strike.

Students in Paris occupied the Sorbonne and the Gare Montparnasse for a couple of hours yesterday but left calmly when the police arrived. By late afternoon, there were no reports of any incidents in the capital.

A demonstration by shopkeepers on Monday evening, however, had again led to a violent baton charge by riot police, in which several people were injured, including a television journalist, wearing an official press armband.

Recent complaints of police brutality against journalists prompted M Georges Fillioud, the Minister for Communi-

cations, to write yesterday to M Joseph Franceschi, the Minister for State Security, asking him to renew his instructions to police chiefs "to take the necessary precautions to avoid the repetition of this kind of incident".

The Ministry of Defence confirmed a newspaper report that six squadrons of military police belonging to a tank regiment were standing by on the outskirts of Paris. However, it denied firmly that there was any intention of bringing tanks into the capital.

It seems unlikely that yesterday's agreement by EEC ministers on agricultural prices (report, page 11) will bring the French Government a respite from demonstrations by farmers, either. One of the main farm unions has already denounced the increases as inadequate.

● Jobs fall: The number of unemployed in France fell again slightly in April for the sixth consecutive month to 2,017,000 (seasonally adjusted), the Employment Ministry announced. Unemployment has risen by only 1.1 per cent over the past year.

Russians reinforce garrison

Islamabad (Reuters) - The Soviet Union may have sent a new division-sized force of up to 6,000 troops to Afghanistan, Western diplomats reported yesterday.

They said the troops arrived, probably over the past few weeks, in the provincial capital of Herat, near the border with Iran and the scene of recent heavy fighting with insurgents. It was not clear if they were reinforcements for the 105,000 Soviet troops already in Afghanistan.

Soviet troops are usually replaced by fresh units during April and May and the Herat force could be a replacement for a similar force in another part of the country.

The diplomats said however that recent reports indicated more Soviet troops were arriving in Afghanistan than were leaving as part of the rotation system. It was the first time since the Soviet intervention of Afghanistan that their troops had been stationed at Herat.

New effort to end Gulf war

Tehran (Reuters) - Ministers from two Gulf states met President Khamenei of Iran yesterday on the second day of a mission which informed sources said was aimed at presenting a new plan to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The meeting coincided with the arrival in Tehran on Mr Mohammad Ben Ahmed Abdelhadi, the Algerian Prime Minister, for talks which also appeared aimed at bringing peace.

Arab and Iranian officials say the two gulf states, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, and Mr Rashid bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi, United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, are here to discuss the huge oil slick caused by damaged Iranian oil wells in the Gulf.

On Sunday Mr Ali Akbar Yelavati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said the Gulf ministers had nothing to do with ending the war.

Tehran radio quoted president Khamenei as telling the envoys to "show seriousness" so efforts to solve the oil slick problems would produce results. Iranian reports have said Tehran urged the Gulf ministers to put pressure on Iraq over the oil slick.

The Gulf envoys had been expected to move on to Baghdad by yesterday for talks there before reporting back to a meeting of six Arab oil states in Saudi Arabia today.

The number of meetings they have with Iranian leaders appears to suggest that whatever has been discussed has been substantial.

Moscow accepts Reagan offer on grain sales

Washington (Reuters, AP) - The Soviet Union has accepted President Reagan's offer to start negotiating a new long-term grain deal administration officials said yesterday.

Mr Reagan, who suspended talks on a new agreement 16 months ago after the imposition of martial law in Poland, offered to resume them last month, under pressure from financially stricken American farmers.

Mr Richard Lyng, the Deputy Agriculture Secretary, said Moscow's acceptance, conveyed on Monday night by Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador, to Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, was not made subject to conditions in other areas of US-Soviet relations, such as arms control.

The present long-term grain agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, which took effect in 1976 and provided for grain sales valued at more than \$9.5 billion (£6 billion).

Mr Lyng told a press conference that the United States trade representative, to begin the negotiations.

States wanted to sell more grain to the Soviet Union, the world's largest importer, under a new agreement.

He said that the United States had no target amounts in mind for a new agreement, but added: "We have said before that we would appreciate an opportunity to have those figures increased... we have grain to sell."

He said that at one time the US had supplied as much as 70 per cent of the Soviet Union's grain imports. After the 16-month grain embargo imposed in 1980 over Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the US share of imports has dropped to "the low 20s".

Consultations between US and Soviet representatives had been tentatively planned for London next month to discuss the remaining months of the current agreement and plans to put back US production. But Mr Lyng said that meeting could be opened up to lay plans for negotiations towards a new agreement.

Mr William Brock, the US trade representative, to begin the negotiations.

Canadian MP charged

From John Best, Ottawa

A Liberal MP and former member of the Canadian Cabinet, Mr Bryce Mackasey, has been charged with influence peddling in connection with an alleged effort to steer government business towards a Montreal engineering firm, now bankrupt.

Three charges were laid against Mr Mackasey, aged 61, by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Montreal on Monday.

One charge, laid under a section of the Criminal Code dealing with bribery of public officials, alleges that Mr Mackasey, 61, and corruptly accepted \$400,000 (£210,000) in exchange for attempting to obtain federal government contracts for the engineering firm, Les Ateliers d'Usinage.

Premier of Upper Volta held

Ouagadougou (AFP) - Captain Thomas Sankara, Upper Volta's Prime Minister, was arrested in a dawn swoop by security agents loyal to Major Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo, the head of state, it was learnt here.

The arrest of Captain Sankara, considered the most radical member of the ruling People's Salvation Council, came shortly before Major Ouédraogo announced that the council was being purged of "irresponsible" elements.

Reports reaching Niamey, capital of Niger, said troops were patrolling the streets of Ouagadougou and that the international airport had been closed. Captain Sankara was appointed Prime Minister in January two months after the coup that toppled the government of Colonel Saye Zerbo.

Crash Britons' bodies found

Carpentras, France (AP) - The burnt bodies of three Britons missing since May 7 when their private aircraft disappeared on a flight from Nice have been discovered near the summit of Mt Ventoux (6,000ft).

They were identified as Alexander Wagstaff, 37, of Rotherbridge, Sussex, David Boggs, 30, of Liverpool and Mrs Amanda Fisher-Pearson, 25, of Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Siege man dies

Brentwood, New York (Reuters) - Robert Wicks, a dismissed part-time teacher who shot himself on Monday night after freeing 20 pupils whom he had held hostage for nine hours in a school, died in hospital. A 15-year-old pupil he shot in the hand and stomach was in a stable condition. Wicks had a history of psychiatric problems, police said.

Second opinion

Johannesburg - A second post mortem examination has been carried out by a private pathologist on the body of Timothy Manana, the black man who died during questioning at Dirksdorp police station on May 3. Lawyers for the Manana family were not content to rely on the state pathologist's findings.

Blue jumper

Houston (Reuters) - Using suction cups, a man wearing a mask, blue wig and blue jump suit climbed up the side of the 71-storey Allied Bank Plaza building in Houston, put on a parachute, leaped off and landed on the roof of a car park. Police arrested him for trespassing.

Ex-Nazi quits

Vienna (Reuters) - Herr Friedrich Peter, parliamentary floor leader of the Rightist-liberal Freedom Party, junior partners in Austria's coalition, has abandoned an attempt to become a deputy President of Parliament because of public objections to his wartime past as an officer in an SS unit.

860 miles left

San Francisco (AP) - Peter Bird, hoping to become the first person to row solo across the Pacific, has completed 7,640 miles of his 8,500-mile trip and is "counting the days" until his landing in Australia, the trip's coordinator said. He has been at sea more than 270 days.

Editor seized

Valletta - Mr Tony Mallia, editor of the Nationalist Party's press in Malta, was arrested after he interviewed Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, the opposition leader, on the clandestine Radio Liberty. The party's newspaper carried part of the interview.

Elections void

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) - Municipal elections in two Haitian towns, Petit-Goave and Fort-Liberté, were declared void because of fraud in Sunday's poll, election officials said. In both places the government candidate won.

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THE ARTS

Opera: John Higgins visits *La Belle Helene* at the Opéra Comique in Paris, and Christopher Warman reports on Covent Garden's plans for 1983-84

Two good showmen in delicious accord

Last Christmas at Geneva Jérôme Savary staged a *Perichole* that turned out to be a whirlwind of colour and vitality. It was reported on this page at the time. Now he is back in Paris, home of his company Le Grand Magic Circus, with an earlier Offenbach, *La Belle Helene*, which is cranking the Opéra Comique.

Savary and Offenbach go together much as Möt and Chandon. When they are twinned they fizz. In a mildly tongue-in-cheek note in the Opéra's monthly magazine Savary claims that if Offenbach is to succeed - a rather more difficult operation than putting on grand opera in his view - then "Il faut du 'pépé'". He adds that he is all against unemployment, so for the past three years he has never employed a cast of fewer than 40.

True to his word, Savary provides pep and bodies in abundance. He keeps his cast on the go the whole time, turning double somersaults, dancing the can-can to show off underskirts made of the *tricolor* and even swimming in the sea at Nauplion in a feat of visual chicanery. Savary's company splits sharply in two: the young and beautiful (Helen, Paris, their attendant nymphs and accompanying androgynous swains) and the middle-aged and ridiculous (Agamemnon, Menelaus and Calchas). In the final act at Nauplion, the special triumph of the production, it is as if the Club Méditerranée has been invaded by a tour operator specialising in the Darbys and Joans.

Savary is not a man bent on pleasing the purists. He tosses in topical jokes: the Mitterrandian regime receives several a passing thrack. He delights in mild outrage: there is a female dwarf who sounds as if she answers to the name of Iphigénie. If the right singer is not available for the role then he will pillage the straight theatre: Jacques Sereys of the Comédie Française, a beaky-nosed comedian somewhat in the mould of Jacques Charon, is a joy as Menelaus, topped in a bowler hat and tailed in the pleated skirt of the evzone. Should a defence be needed then Savary would doubtless claim that he is a showman and probably go on to point out that Offenbach was one also. Opponents might point out that Méliès and Halévy included a line or two of classical Greek in their couplets.

Sereys appears in all performances, but some of the other roles are double and even triple cast. Susan Daniel, a British mezzo who has been working in Basle and Munich, has all the physical allure for the title part; she pours into her sheath dress and carries an ostrich plume well. But the voice is less voluptuous than the body - "Dis-moi, Vénus" could have done with a little more sensuality of tone.



By the waters of Nauplion: Jules Bastin (left), Michel Trempont, Michel Hamel

Similarly Michael Cousin's Paris needed a touch more vocal grace in numbers such as "Au mont Ida", but he is a skilled comedian and a fearless singer; moreover, he can wear a leopard skin without embarrassment, an accomplishment not given to all tenors.

The core of Savary's production is provided by three expert and experienced Offenbach hands: Jules Bastin (Agamemnon), Michel Trempont (Calchas) and Michel Hamel (Achilles), who know just how to send

up a Handelian chorus or take Wagner a little less than seriously. It is the art of exaggeration, so that if the Agamemnon has a spare tyre of his own around the belly then make sure to provide him with another inner tube for taking the waters at Nauplion. Bastin carries both nobly.

Not exactly the view of the Trojan Wars taken by Jean Giraudoux in *La Guerre de Troie* at our own National Theatre at the moment? Well, no, but a very Parisian and some would say

rather witty one, crisply conducted by Claude Schnitzler, who has taken over the orchestra from Alain Lombard this month. And for Offenbach himself a postscript of thanks: at one point he considered adding Homer to the cast list, described as "The Man from The Times", but fortunately he thought better of it.

● Remaining performances, with cast changes: tomorrow, May 23, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31.

Courageous array of new productions

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, is to mount seven new opera productions in its 1983-84 season, including a double bill of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, receiving its first performance in the house, and Stravinsky's *The Nightingale*, last heard at Covent Garden in Beecham's winter season of 1919. They will mark the opening in September this year of the Ravel-Varèse Festival, organized by the London Sinfonietta, and both will be produced by John Dexter and designed by David Hockney, the team who first presented them at the Met in New York.

The seven new productions, some of them borrowed from other houses, compare with only two new productions during the present season. At a press conference yesterday to announce the programme Sir Claus Moser, the Chairman, acknowledged that Covent Garden faces its most difficult financial situation, but added: "After two or three lean years we all felt we simply must get back to a more satisfactory level of new productions, which are

the lifeblood of an opera house."

Some had been borrowed at very low cost, and not all were full-scale new productions, but he hoped they would give the public "some new experiences on the sort of budget we have". He said that they did not yet know the grant they would receive from the Arts Council next year but, if the worst predictions proved correct, Covent Garden would face a deficit of up to £200,000.

There are three totally new productions. *Boris Godunov* by Mussorgsky will be conducted by Claudio Abbado, the title role being sung for the first time by Robert Lloyd. The producer and designer will be announced next month.

Bellini's *I Capuletti ed i Montecchi*, which has not been presented at Covent Garden since 1848, will be conducted by Riccardo Muti and produced and designed by Pier Luigi Pizzi. In June 1984 *Aida* returns

to Covent Garden after an absence of seven years, conducted by Zubin Mehta with production and design by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle. The cast includes Luciano Pavarotti, who recently cancelled his scheduled performances in *Tosca* at Covent Garden, and Katia Ricciarelli as Aida.

There is to be a production new to Britain of Massenet's *Esclarmonde*, never before performed at Covent Garden, with Joan Sutherland in the title

role - her last new role with the Royal Opera. This production, originally presented by San Francisco Opera, is the first at Covent Garden by Lotfi Mansouri. Giordano's *Andrea Chénier* will be given in a production from the Cologne Opera which opens in Germany later this month. In London it will be conducted by Richard Armstrong with a cast led by José Carreras and Rosalind Plowright.

The programme will also include 13 revivals, among them *Die Fledermaus* with Plácido Domingo making his house debut as conductor, and Berg's *Lulu* and *Wozzeck*.

Television Waxen history

"You've seen one too many men die", the young hero is told. "I don't know how you made it this far." After some six hours of *The Blue and the Gray* (BBC1), none of us did. The spectacle of all those false beards, quite apart from the amputations, burnings and general carnage - was enough to make the stoutest heart quail. Sunday evening faded into Monday, and it was not until the dark hours of Tuesday that the obligatory "update" ending arrived to persuade us that the Americans are, after all, one big happy family.

Their view of history is of some large House of Wax, but that particular commodity was smeared on so thickly that it was difficult to tell Gettysburg from Appomattox. Lloyd Bridges from Stacy Keach. In fact the combatants spent so much time reassuring each other that they were all fellow Americans ("Get your heads down, Rebs, we're opening up!") that the differences hardly mattered. The action was so slow, however, that those of an enquiring mind would have found time to read a three-volume history of the

Civil War in the intervals between various tearful reconciliations.

Since *The Blue and the Gray* was as far removed from American history as the Muppets are from the animal kingdom, the war itself seemed a peculiarly futile business - a series of melodramatic tableaux in which the major interest was in the number of dead men and horses that could be crowded into the smallest possible space. The excessive interest in the varieties of death and injury made some of the scenes difficult to watch, and the bombast from men in stovepipe hats did not disguise the puerility of the whole enterprise. It was significant, perhaps, that the central character, John Geysler, was a newspaper illustrator, adding a new horror to death with his ugly sketches for *Harper's* magazine. The drama itself, with this fascination for violence compounded by a crude sentimentality about fraternity and "one nation", was not a pretty sight.

Peter Ackroyd

Anthony Masters introduces the work of Joseph Chaikin, whose *Trio* opens at Riverside tonight Chamber music in action

Chaikin: openly creative

Among the established innovators of American experimental theatre Joseph Chaikin's name commands unique respect and affection. A youthfully curly 47-year-old of modest sweetness and quietness, he appeared with the Judith Malina/Julian Beck Living Theater for four years before leaving in 1963 to found the Open Theater, whose productions of Jean-Claude van Itallie's *American Hurrah* (1967) and *Nightwalk* (1973) played here at the Royal Court and the Round House respectively. From tonight until Sunday his "chamber theatre piece" *Trio* visits Riverside Studios, where he appeared two years ago in a one-man Samuel Beckett adaptation, *Texts*.

Trio is of special interest because its genesis as a collaborative "laboratory piece" marks, to some extent, a fresh exploration of the creative techniques for which he is known (the last few years have been devoted to what he calls "ad hoc" productions, including classics, collaborations with Sam Shepard and work as a performer). *Trio* has its roots in recent work at the LaMama Winter Project, using several members of the Open Theater. "But there were pressures inhibiting the idea's development. Everybody was doing other work simultaneously; we also had to come up with productions by a set date and, because of time, certain explorations sometimes had to be cut off. In the process of discovery you can't always go straight; often things have to be peeled away, unearthed. Now we have explored further and *Trio* includes completely new material."

Religion's secrets suggested the figures of a missionary couple, with their promises of salvation and threats of hell. The Psalms, with what Chaikin describes as their "bargaining" with and "bribery" towards Jehovah, are used to contribute to their vibrant, often blood-thirsty language ("with very few exceptions they end in a war cry"), a counterweight to *Trio's* predominantly "delicate, not aggressive" character. But in this age, as Chaikin sees it, the subtitle also takes on a political relevance. The reference to the nuclear threat is made explicit. A character asks: Since, in the Bomb, we now have something arguably equal to God, could it be God himself returning in different guise? Messianic quarter suggests what Chaikin's piece, for all its intimacy, tenderness and even comedy, might have had as a second subtitle: "Trio pour la fin du temps".



The three players in *Trio* include Ronnie Gilbert and Harry Mann, whose musical contribution is "not within, but mainly, jazz". In the creative process each brings individual things; there is no set pattern. The actor must not only be accomplished in a great range of histrionic resources; he must generate.

Subtitled "Lies and Secrets", *Trio* is "not a thesis piece, but a chamber piece composed like music". The theme is alluded to and worked out, as a musician would say, with relation to theatre itself (being a matter of artifice, disguise and revelation, blurring references to Beckett and Chekhov, and, most importantly, "lies and secrets" on a public scale).

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Theatre Overwhelming 'love'

Liza Minnelli
Apollo Victoria

Unlike other star performers who have filled London's most cavernous houses with rapturous fans, Liza Minnelli is not so much electrifying as electrified. That slight figure, all elbows and knees and prominent teeth, seems designed for insignificance, but once she gets going it is as if someone has thrown a master-switch.

It is not simply that she is giving her all, but that she has been plugged into some outside power source, making her limbs pulse, her voice soar and her jagged hair almost spring up in spikes. The obvious source is her 12-piece band, which functions as a generator, particularly when she matches her own brazen vocal equipment against its six-strong brass section.

The same pattern recurs again and again: there is Minnelli as an urchin waif confronting the world with a wide-eyed gaze as some whispered appeal trembles on her lips; then the boys get blowing and this fragile figure changes into a striding, masterful goddess, flooding the building with a song of success.

She talks but little with the house, and the only revelation she offered on Monday was that her favourite form of music is "the old English folk ballad" (a likely story). Otherwise it is only to introduce the next number, or lead into a medley from her father's films, or her own performance in *Cabaret*.

One part of her appeal is that she is volcanically energetic

without the least sign of aggression; another that she overflows with comradely warmth towards her musicians and co-dancers (David Gibson and a piece of india-rubber dynamite called Jamie Torcellini).

What becomes wearing is the way in which every piece of material she touches (with the exception of a bitter Aznavour conversation number) is homogenized into the Minnelli success story. She comes on singing "Manana", and as she puts it over it means that something wonderful really is going to happen tomorrow. "God Bless the Child (that's got his own)" changes from a song of destitution, as it was for Billie Holiday, into yet another strident affirmation of coming out on top. The head jinks back at the end, the arm goes up in a victory salute, and you are left in no doubt that Minnelli has got her own.

Again, if she sings "September Song" it is sandwiched inside Brecht's song of Bilbao, as a melancholy middle-eight leading to a triumphant reprise.

Changing from a black trouser suit to an electric blue mini-skirt, and finally into pink tuxedo pants for the second act, she comes on Monday, but in doing so she left a few casualties behind. I thought Gretchen Cryer's "People Change" an indestructible song; but I reckoned without Minnelli's trumpets, and her readiness to sacrifice the lyrics as long as that word "love" came ringing through on top.

Irving Wardle



Harrowing but hopeful spiritual journey: Christian Patey in *L'Argent*

Cannes Film Festival Bresson's masterly vision of faith

After riots, tropical rains and the hazards of the blockhouse, as the new festival palace is unlovingly known, the luck of Cannes changed with the screening of Robert Bresson's *L'Argent* - a film, at last, that needs no extenuation or qualification. Bresson is 76, and for 40 years (or 50, if we take into account his lost first film of 1933, *Affaires publiques*) has pursued his individual and uncompromised path.

L'Argent is based on a story by Tolstoy, and the anecdote and moral are as deceptively simple as a classical legend. As Bresson summarizes it, "A small transgression provokes a veritable avalanche of evil, until the moment that the forces of good arrive". Two schoolboys pass off a forged bank note to a shopkeeper. The shopkeeper knowingly uses the note to pay the young man who delivers his heating oil. The young man - the first to use the note innocently - is arrested. The respectable shopkeeper has his respectable assistant perjure himself, and the young man is convicted. Pardon, he never loses his job.

Now without any means of livelihood, he becomes a criminal in reality, and is imprisoned. His child dies, his wife abandons him and he

retreats into private anger. On his release he revenges himself on society in an orgy of murder.

Lately Bresson has insistently referred to films as "cinematographic", which he defines as "a style of writing, using images and sounds". His style is one of austerity and ellipsis. He strips narrative, dialogue, settings and characters to their naked essentials, so that nothing distracts from the description of the spiritual journeyings of his people. His story tells of robbery, violence, half a dozen murders, but these things are never directly shown. The film's most shocking moment in terms of physical action is the breaking of a glass.

Since *Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne*, made in 1944, all Bresson's films have dealt with the same theme of the battle between predestination and will, and have concluded with the same belief in an ultimate spiritual grace. In this hero's ultimate repentance and confession, Bresson still sees a possibility of atonement to justify the unquenchable faith that "the forces of good" will always arrive. Bresson is a singular soul, and *L'Argent* is the twelfth successive masterpiece in an incomparable career.

David Robinson

Concerts

Profound understanding of Tippett

Lindsay Quartet
St John's/Radio 3

If all composers prefaced their printed scores with practical advice on performance, like Tippett in his Second String Quartet, how much easier life would be. When recording this work (and its two fellows) a few years ago, the Lindsay Quartet were still lucky in having the composer in person as their mentor. So we can safely assume that what they told us about this second quartet at St

John's on Monday was uncommonly close to the truth. Their tempo for the slow movement was marginally slower than the prescribed Andante. But the greater expressive intensity it elicited was wholly attuned to the music's dark spirit of foreboding (Tippett has confessed to jolting down the figure subject during the Munich days of 1938). The *dolce* towards its end was poignantly bitter-sweet. Liquid phrasing and shading of each individual strand dissolved all bar-lines in the madrigal-inspired texture, of the opening

Allegro grazioso, as the composer intended. By keeping the more piquantly accented Scherzo much on its toes, the Lindsay also had plenty of bite and drive in reserve for the finale, designed by Tippett to carry the main dramatic weight. The movement's withdrawn ending was deeply expressive.

With its swift alternations of vehemence and calm, Beethoven's F minor Quartet, Op 95, was recently described (in the opening programme of their current Wigmore Hall Beethoven cycle) by the Lindsay Quartet's leader, echoing Men-

delsohn before him, as the epitome of Beethoven. By maintaining tension in relaxation, they again surmounted all problems of integration, showing themselves able to take risks in high dudgeon without roughening of tone or ensemble. They were also finely in command of a daringly fast tempo in the finale's shimmering F major coda. But it was all they found beneath the deceptively simple surface of the Allegretto that haunts my memory.

Joan Chissell

Academy of London
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sir Lennox Berkeley was at one of the main musical tributes to his recent eightieth birthday in Monday night's concert, and, after an eloquent performance of his Violin Concerto, he had a warm embrace for Yehudi Menuhin, for whom it was written and who first played it at the 1961 Bath Festival.

Although it is fairly small in scale, in ensemble and in duration, it reflects an intensity

of musical imagination which was expressively shared between the violinist and the Academy of London, conducted by Richard Stamp.

The central slow movement is among the nearest occasions Sir Lennox came to making use of a 12-note row, here as the outline for a passacaglia theme which affords rich tonal associations, as well as some poetic writing for the solo violin.

Mr Menuhin brought a touch of rapture to his playing both here and in the equally lyrical substance of the finale, maintaining a purposeful partnership

with the orchestra that was only slightly displaced at the very end.

Two other works by Sir Lennox were also performed: his elegantly diverting Serenade for Strings of 1939, and the lovely *Four Poems of Saint Theresa* of Avila which have had less than their due since they were written for Kathleen Ferrier in 1947.

The soloist here was Meriel Dickinson, whose unforged tone and expressive character missed only the quality of ecstasy implied in the harmonics of voice and instruments, particu-

larly in the searching setting of "Let mine eyes see Thee".

For Mozart's Symphony in G minor (No 40), Mr Stamp reverted to the original orchestration without clarinets, imparting a keener tone to the ensemble at the expense of some variety. He was evidently concerned to express the fierce intensity of this music, which he did with a firm sense of rhythm and emphasis, while the response of his 30 or so players was distinguished by disciplined attack, lively spirit and polished phrasing.

Noel Goodwin

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SPECTRUM

JUNE 24 '83 David Steel is the man who sells the Liberal-SDP Alliance, but he and his top advisers often leave their own party behind, as Ian Bradley and George Brock report in the final part of this special series

Conducting the one-man Steel band

David Steel's personality is the greatest single asset which the Liberal-SDP Alliance can mobilize for its election campaign. Whatever the rationalizations flowing from the meetings over Steel's or Roy Jenkins's precedence, position or prominence, the SDP leadership accepts the inevitable: Steel sells the Alliance.

Steel's pulling power has dictated the style of the campaign. A joint leaders committee meeting on April 27 decided to eschew big, set-piece rallies and platform speeches in favour of the informal question-and-answer sessions which Steel launched in Glasgow. "We decided on this format," said one of those at the meeting, "because it is the one in which David excels."

Steel's poll ratings are a response to an unblemished, "stainless" image. Steel is also an exceptionally astute and ambitious politician pursuing a clearly viewed long-term goal with fixed determination. And behind the finely judged image is the small group of advisers who have laboured long to cultivate it. Its unquestioned leader is Steel's closest political confidant, Richard Holme, backed by a small coterie of specialists which, strikingly, does not include any of the party's senior hierarchy or of its MPs.

Most members of this group share Steel's view of his party's future, a view not shared by all Liberals and which has reversed the strategy of Liberal leaders since the war. His predecessors advocated winning votes first and then working out what was to be done with them. Steel has worked out what he wants to do with his limited power: he has used, is using and will use it to form coalitions, combinations and alliances. With those he intends to win more votes.

The Steel group trace their priorities to the day in February 1974 when Jeremy Thorpe discussed coalition with a stubborn Edward Heath, who was hanging on for a last few days in Downing Street. Steel was then the Liberal Chief Whip. He realized that such an alliance was unlikely for many reasons, but he also saw that, had the prospects been better, Thorpe had little idea of what to bargain for. There was no plan.

"Many of the self-styled social democrats would be happier company in combination with Liberals than

socialists," he wrote in 1975, a year before he replaced Thorpe as leader. "Should such an opportunity for an effective grouping of the left come about, it is important that the Liberal Party should not behave like a more rigid sect of the Exclusive Brethren, but be ready to join with others in the more effective promotion of liberalism."

The effective promotion of the Steel strategy moved from the temporary pact with James Callaghan to a key role in encouraging the foundation of the SDP, which included discouraging any thoughts among the Labour disaffected that they should join the Liberals instead. The vociferous opposition of long-time Liberal activists was ignored. One senior and well-respected Liberal observed: "I suppose you could say that what he's done since 1976 is to give the party a series of shocks which may seem good in the long term but certainly didn't seem good in the short term."

Steel's advisers are men he feels comfortable with. He is a reserved man, with few close friends and none of the taste for flamboyant London life which Thorpe displayed. The Steel advisers do not, of course, include any Thorpe advisers.

Most influential of all is Holme. He and Steel met when they were both Liberal by-election candidates in 1965 (Steel for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles and Holme for East Grinstead) and have been close friends since. Holme is a graduate of the Harvard Business School and former marketing director of Penguin books; he became Steel's chief political confidant after a spell in the United States during which he organized George McGovern's presidential campaign in Southern California. The experience shows in today's approach: he is an advocate of making as much of Steel's personality as possible, on the grounds that voters respond to people and not abstractions. On Holme's advice, the Steel image has been toughened up since the Falklands. In the words of one adviser: "We took the decision that British politics was becoming rougher and that we needed



to reveal David as a tough guy. It is part of him that has always been there, but it has not really been projected in the past." Holme is almost the only other member of the Liberal Party Steel trusts to enter important negotiations with the SDP with full powers of decision.

He sees Steel three or four times a week, supplying suggestions and drafts for speeches, particularly on constitutional, ecological and defence issues. He is credited with most of the jokes in Steel's speeches, although no one could claim the Liberal leader as a great knockabout. Holme had Steel describing Mrs Thatcher as the "Eid Blyton of economics" and Michael Foot and Roy Hattersley as "Siegfried and Son". During the 1979 election campaign, Holme was at Steel's Dolphin Square flat at 7.15 each morning for a daily session with the morning papers and to plan the tactics of the day.

Liberal party political broadcasts will be produced - as in 1979 - by a freelance television director, Justin Cartwright. His 1979 films made much of Steel and particularly tried to build the personal and human side of the politician. A special studio set was constructed to represent the sitting room of the Steel family home at Ettrick Bridge in the Borders and there was film of Steel playing with his children and walking in the Scottish hills.

There was nothing inaccurate about such images: Steel puts in a great deal of travelling in order to try to be at Ettrick Bridge three weekends out of four. But he is also fascinated by the medium of television and by the mechanics of its production. One adviser says he would have been an excellent director if he had not become a politician, and before entering politics full-time he was indeed briefly a presenter on BBC Scotland. He is a fan of new technology. He was impressed by the speech projection machine used by Ronald Reagan when he addressed both houses of Parliament last year, and used one himself when he spoke at the Alliance rally in January.

Several of Steel's advisers feel that, good as he is on television, the party's exposure is now reaching proportions where more high-powered inside knowledge would help. Or, as one of them put it, "No politician getting decent communications advice would be allowed on television in those shirts with the collar a different colour from the rest of it."

Yet on television Steel manages a number of fine balances: he is open without being indiscreet, undogmatic without being waffly. He is unfailingly polite into the bargain.

There is one important component in these performances which cannot be tuned or packaged: his moral commitment. The son of the manse has embraced a Liberalism which is explicitly Christian and moral as well as political, and those close to Steel are in no doubt that his clear and deeply held religious views influence the speed and clarity with which he will answer questions likely to make other politicians wriggle and prevaricate. Those moral commitments and his strategy for the party rank as priorities for Steel and his inner group well ahead of any actual Liberal policy prescriptions. "I don't think he knows what half of them are," one member said of the party's manifesto commitments. It is this frame of mind which has so far smoothed the path of

Alliance seat allocation and policy negotiation.

Steel is impatient with Liberals who want to liberalize the world on paper before they have any power to make the ideas real. He is content for the Liberals' public image to remain an association with general ideas for the time being - a party which has not been in power in recent memory is unlikely to catch extra votes by spelling out the legislative timetable for revolutionizing the Rate Support Grant.

Although Steel himself is not naturally interested in Liberal philosophy, he accepts the need for an occasional heavyweight speech. For these he turns to William Wallace, an old fashioned Liberal in the Gladstone tradition. Wallace's contributions are often filtered through Holme, who may not have Wallace's academic background but who does have more of Steel's ear.

Wallace and Holme normally supply the foundation for Steel's speech to the annual party assembly, meeting during July at the Albert pub in Victoria Street for their first session. Holme usually spends a few days at Ettrick Bridge in early August producing a first draft.

Most smaller-scale Steel speeches will be coordinated or drafted by his personal assistant, Stuart Mole.

There have been problems over finding speechwriters for the campaign. Holme will be fighting a strong Liberal prospect in Cheltenham, Mole will be making his fourth attempt to unseat Norman St John Stevas in Chelmsford, Wallace will be fighting Shipley. Suggestions and scripts are not hard to come by, but just before the election announcement, the team were still casting around for a "wordsmith" with whom Steel felt happy.

In place of Holme, Steel will have as his travelling companion on the campaign Lord (Pratap) Chitnis, once Liberal agent at the famous 1962

Travelling companions

The leadership of the Alliance will create a joint election office at the SDP headquarters in Cowley Street, which will be headed by John Lytle, normally the head of Roy Jenkins's Westminster office. Its staff will be a mixture of Liberals and Social Democrats.

Jenkins himself will be accompanied by a three-strong team on his ambitious forays away from Hillhead. He will be rejoined by his ex-personal assistant, Lord Harris, for the duration of his travels. Harris's inclusion in the team was accompanied by a certain vagueness as to what he would be doing. Caroline Thomson, a former BBC journalist who works in Jenkins's private office, and his secretary, Celia Beale, complete the team. Mrs Jennifer Jenkins will, as usual, campaign with her husband.

Jenkins's principal speechwriters are likely to be Lytle, Thomson and Christopher Smallwood, the ex-Treasury civil servant who coordinates SDP policy-making.



Lord Harris with Jenkins for his forays
John Lytle: head of Roy Jenkins' office

Orpington by-election, subsequently head of the party's organization and one of Jeremy Thorpe's most implacable enemies. He is now director of the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust based in York. A staunch Roman Catholic, he is credited with an "almost Jesuitical" influence over the Presbyterian Steel.

The other two members of the triumvirate planning the Steel campaign trail are Paul Tyler, ex-MP for Bodmin and now on the staff of the public relations consultancy Good Relations, and Andrew Gifford, Steel's personal assistant for four years and now a parliamentary lobbyist.

Tyler will be based in London throughout the campaign and will specialize in media arrangements. Gifford, the junior member of the trio, has charge of logistics and transport. In 1979, Steel travelled most of the campaign in the party "battibus". This time, symbolically, he will be moving faster some of the time, by both jet and helicopter. Twenty hours of flying time in each have been promised by sympathetic beneficiaries.

No senior figures in the party hierarchy or any of its MPs are members of the Steel band. Holme was party president for a year, but otherwise Steel has chosen his people in a way that reflects his determination to take the party the way he wants it to go. He not only takes little notice of what the parliamentary party thinks, but operates at some distance from it. The business of "managing" the MPs and the party at large is in the hands of two veteran party men, Lords Tordoff and Evans, who form a buffer state between the leader and his party.

There is perhaps one other member of the inner group who might be consulted on such questions: Judy Steel. Steel's friends rate her as an important influence, especially, as one put it, "in telling him when he's doing something silly". Steel is not, however, prone to silliness. He is not even prone to untidiness. The self-containment means that however compatible and trusted his inner advisers are, in the end he takes advice from no one but himself. He may use the technical skills which his group provides, but he is also the man who could manage without them if he had to.

The men who keep the image stainless



David Holme: Steel's most trusted lieutenant

William Wallace: Liberal in the Gladstone tradition

Stuart Mole: man behind the Steel speeches

Pratap Chitnis: almost Jesuitical influence over Steel

Paul Tyler: specialist in media arrangements

Andrew Gifford: in charge of logistics and transport



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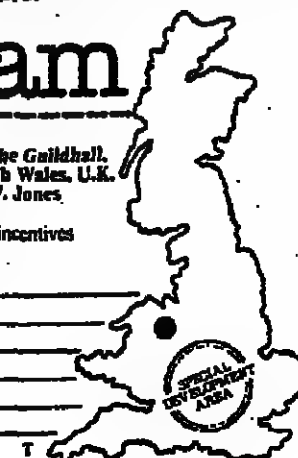
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Float along with me

MOVIE OVER: Miles Kingston

At this confusing time I have been asked to provide a short glossary of the political terms involved in a general election to help the floating voter.

Floating Voter: One who cannot quite make up his mind whether Mrs Thatcher's policies have nearly destroyed the industrial and social fabric of the country or whether they have put it firmly back on a stable footing.

General Election: A day on which more than 600 by-elections are held all at the same time, in order to keep Screaming Lord Sutch's appearances down to a minimum.

Alliance: An unofficial agreement between the Tory and Labour parties to help to destroy the SDP and Liberals.

Manifesto: 1. A political document issued by a party for its adherents to read, but which is only studied by its opponents to provide ammunition. 2. A series of promises broken at the last election. 3. A device for keeping the Labour Party together. 4. Something which everyone talks about but no one has ever seen.

Hastings: One of the Cinque Ports constituencies, along with Dover, Margate, Bexley and Hestline.

Old Labour Party: A term devised by the Tories to suggest that the Labour Party now

caters only for those who grow leeks for competition, play in brass bands and refer to themselves as socialists.

Old Tory Party: Term devised by the Labour Party to suggest that the Conservative Party is controlled by people who would not dream of meeting Mrs Thatcher socially.

Caucus: Any group to which the speaker does not have access.

Ecological: An abhorrent and unEnglish pretence that there are some matters too important to play party politics with.

Poll: 1. General election: an opportunity for the public to vote against the party of their choice. 2. A daily sounding of public opinion to maintain interest in an election and to sell newspapers. 3. A survey which claims to show what voters are thinking but which succeeds only in changing their minds.

Proportional Representation: 1. The strange habit of the French of holding an election in two parts on consecutive Sundays. 2. An electoral system which would bring the Liberal/SDP alliance to power, but which can only be established if the Liberals and SDP are already in power.

Idealism: A vague feeling that there must be a way of having David Steel as Prime Minister without actually putting the Liberals in power.

Swings: Something which, if repeated all over the country, would produce a certain result, but never does: a process only understood by Professor Ivor Crewe.

Secret Ballot: A kind of election in which nobody can find out how you voted. There are many countries which do not have a secret ballot, such as Russia, Albania and Great Britain.

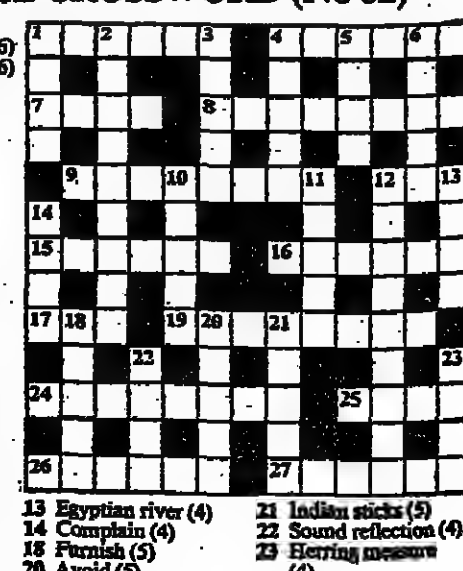
Well: Perhaps Russia and Albania do, but in Great Britain each ballot paper is numbered so that it can be checked, if necessary, against your name and address.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 62)

ACROSS
1 Protective cover (6)
4 Inordinate pride (6)
7 Spirited (4)
8 Bards (6)
9 Dead end (3,2,3)
12 Males (3)
13 Creature (6)
16 Smokestack (6)
17 Ink writer (3)
18 Footprint (8)
24 Faxes (8)
25 Consumer (6)
26 Shoot up (6)
27 Impats (6)

DOWN
1 Rudely blunt (4)
2 Privacy (9)
3 Social blunder (5)
4 Alto violin (5)
5 Brief record (4)
6 Unifying idea (5)
10 Husk residue (5)
11 Fals (3)
12 Policy declaration (9)

SOLUTION TO No 61
ACROSS: 1 Stifle 5 Sage 8 Paint 9 Drought 11 Alliance 13 Cist 15 Substitutes 18 Hind 19 Fountain 22 Avocado 23 Shine 24 Lead 25 Yum yum
DOWN: 2 Trill 3 Fit 4 Endocrinology 5 Snob 6 Goggles 7 Sprat 10 Tidy 12 Abbe 14 Flan 15 Syncope 16 Whop 17 Under 20 Adieu 21 Ward 23 Sam



WEDNESDAY PAGE

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY



Exit, stage left, moved to tears

The dress rehearsal was at two o'clock on Tuesday. We stepped for the first time on to our little black and silver stage, dressed to the nines in our sumptuous evening clothes. We have no costume changes, no scenery to shift, no props, apart from champagne glasses and cigarettes, to fumble with or break. We shimmered along in front of the empty seats; we knew our lines and our songs, all our moves and dance steps. After the first act, we stopped for coffee; bright, brittle smiles hid the fluttering panic - my stomach felt as though cows were being herded through it. In the second act, after the extract from *Brief Encounter*, Simon and I moved the two black, semi-circular seats together again to form a single bench. Bossiness, always my undoing, made his entrance.

My mouth opened and, in a voice an octave higher than my own, I said, "They go further upstage. Simon - move it upstage". I picked up my bit of bench and plonked it



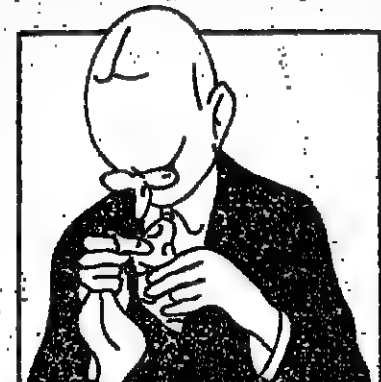
down an unnecessary two inches to the left. At that moment a disc slipped in my neck. Suddenly and quite smoothly, I turned from Gertrude Lawrence into Richard III. My head moved neither to left nor right, neither up, nor down. My shoulder, in a ghastly spasm, rose up level with my ear and my left hand became an uninhabited, rubber-gloved - it was now ten past five, and

our first show in front of the paying public was to be at eight o'clock sharp. Oh! the agony and terror! The confusion and despair! I lay face down on the dressing room floor, nose pressed against the carpet, while Ken, the choreographer, and Gill, the singing girl, kneaded and pummelled and rubbed, desperately trying to loosen the Laocoön knot. Sheridan Morley packed me into his car and we sped down to see a Bone Man. Bone Man wearily pushed a big needle full of anesthetic into my shoulder blade and, I'm ashamed to say, fat tears rolled down my painted face.

I chewed up several pain killers of one sort and some others of another, and realized, as I was winched into my dress again, that part of my brain had downed tools in sympathy. Of course, it was far, far worse for my beloved fellow performers. I only had to concentrate on staying upright - they had to make the show fun. How we did it, or how the show went, I'll never know; but the actors' media, Doctor Theatre, stepped in: he forces so much adrenalin round your body that pain evaporates, even enabling ballerinas to dance on broken ankles. We had to cancel the next two shows and, for me, the next two days of filming a commercial. Moral: don't put your daughter on the stage. Mrs Worthington; but if you do, get someone else to move the furniture.

The cleanest people in the world are not surgeons and nurses scrubbed

up for the operating theatre: they are actors just before they go onstage. particularly if four men and two women have to share a room slightly smaller than a bus shelter. Cleanliness must be contagious; you have never seen such constant ablutions. A good deal of baby powder floats about and deodorants are sprayed and rolled on to every conceivable limb and cranny. Nostribs and beards and ears are inspected, with scissors flying to and fro; gargling and vigorous tooth brushings are followed by tongue numbing blasts of breath sweeteners and throat tablets. Wigs are adjusted and snipped, fingernails pared and a great deal of hand



washing goes on. The scent and aftershave clash mistily round the mirrors, some hair spray and one more gasp of breathblitz before the monkey plucking starts. Specks of dust and fluff, odd hairs and so forth

are broadly tracked down and picked off like ticks while our lips move endlessly in exercises - "Pataka, pataka, budaga, budaga, pappalakka poo, digger digger". Thank God we don't do matinees.

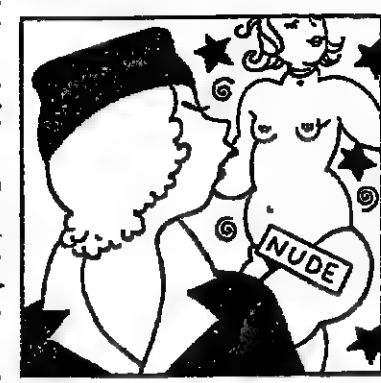
Sped off to do the David Frost Live from London show at the studios in Wandsworth. What a line-up! Paula Clark and Nigel Dempster, Angela Rippon and Willie Hamilton, Robert Lacey and Danny La Rue, Jim Davidson and the wondrous Boy George and Culture Club. This is the sixth of 13 shows which are transmitted live to Australia's East Coast, leaving us at 11.30 am and popping up simultaneously at 8.30 pm down-under time. Why on earth haven't we got a show like this in Britain? Frost was in his element, there is a lively, warm-hearted audience and a wonderful mix-up of musicians and personalities. Lucky old Oz.

Incidentally, what has happened to all the splendid drama serials here at home? Where is the night every week when everyone stays in for fear of missing the next great episode and talk is of nothing else the next day? (except *Coronation Street*, of course: everyone sensible watches that). Enforced leisure is the big new boy in town; entertainment is the dame on his arm. We should all be on our toes.

Have just opened an envelope and unravelled a large sepia photograph of myself. At least I thought it was me, looking particularly good, until I turned it round the right way and

found it was Julie Christie. When I went to Greece in 1966, Dr Zhivago had just come out, and the Greek boys on the island were determined that I was this lovely girl, "Jooly Kreestee", they yelled. "You Jooly Kreestee", they yelled. "You Jooly Kreestee", they yelled. I couldn't convince them that I wasn't, so I signed all their bits of paper with a flourish. I shall go to the exhibition of Maryn Goddard's work at the National Theatre which the photograph advertises, if only in the hope of meeting and seeing the real Julie Christie for who I was so happily mistaken.

Leaving L'Escargot after lunch, I stepped out on to the Soho pavement and sniffed the sunny air. I had 10 minutes to kill before recording a voice-over round the corner. Two lads came by, "Wotcher Purdy", said one "doin' any more Avengers then?" "No, sadly not", I replied, "Wotcher doin' 'ere then."



Purdy? "I'm working here", I said. "Gaw", said the other, and they hastened away. Turning round, I saw I was standing in front of a non-stop, 24-hour, extremely vulgar, all bits showing strip club.

I was addressing an audience of fairly young children at the Screen on the Hill before their Saturday morning film show. "And now", I said "how do you think I was able to turn my eyes blue in *Sapphire and Steel*?" A small boy in the front row answered: "Double glazing."

COMMENT
Government policy and marriage rifts

I wonder how much legislation and official policy influences the course of events in the break-up of a marriage which has for the most part been happy, without sexual difficulties, and produced children who are successful, happily married, and have children of their own. It is hard for a woman to contemplate divorce after 40 years of marriage, and to see another woman take her name, and slip into her place, eat from her table, and, worst of all, take possession of the kitchen so carefully planned by her that hands move automatically from one working area to another. Only in the mind's eye does one see it, of course.

I have never been back, and from the moment we kissed goodbye, my husband never wanted to see me again. He wanted to be alone, he said but he had always had his girlfriends, and I had kept out of the way rather than upset myself. Because we had built up a business together after he had taken redundancy, I had to be the one to move out, but in my new home a hundred miles away, I tried not to think of what I had left behind, to have things as I wanted it this time, and be happy with new friends.

This I shall be, but the financial difficulty of starting out on one's own in 1979/80 can only be compared with putting in oil-fired central heating in 1973/74, and I had that too! The enormous increase of mortgage rates at that time, and the not inconsiderable increase in the rates of electricity and telephone left practically nothing - even for food. But as the poor woman struggles out from beneath the burden of her problems in the first years of separation, gets the house weather-proof, the weeds under control so the vegetables grow and finds to her joy that interest rates are coming down, the husband decides that living on his own, despite a woman coming in to clean, is not as marvellous as he thought. So he writes to his wife to say he would like divorce as he wants to re-marry. The incentive is not a lump sum as a sweetener, but the fact that a woman over 60 can get a full Old Age Pension, a bit of government policy that I suspect is not very well known.

At 60 I am now entitled to £8.86 a week (and God knows how that is calculated) so I have enough

to feed myself, but the full pension of over £30 which I should get if I allowed my husband to divorce me is too strong a temptation. I could buy new clothes, have a holiday, pay someone to do digging or painting - or just pay off my debts. But why should I be put into this position of deciding to break up a 40-year-old marriage (when in old age we might have come together again) because of some administrative decision that legal separation is one thing divorce is another? The advantage to me of a pension rises with inflation, whereas my allowance did not. For my husband, the advantage is greater: he can marry a woman 20 years younger before he is 70, and while she will still have him, and he does not have to worry about the possibility of looking after an old woman crippled with arthritis and going deaf - but that was always an excuse for silence.

The question remains. Am I doing my husband a favour by granting divorce "early" so that he can rush into another marriage which may well not last because of incompatibility or the vast difference in age. How long will a woman under 50 stay with an old man? Once she has got his money, she can leave for turn him out and marry again. All the penny-pinching over the years which has bought a lovely home and given children a good start in life, may just provide for a woman I have never met, and be acquired later by a new husband. As my solicitor tells me, all the money we have saved over the years could go to this man and his nor those of my husband's new wife would benefit at all.

I have promised now to make no demands for myself, but I am trying to get something for my children by begging my husband to make a will which gives money to his future wife for her lifetime only, but leaves his property for our children, and our children's children. I never contemplated dragging him through the courts so that we would both be penniless, but are government regulations causing something for a mere £30 or so per week, and is it in the interests of the country as a whole that this should happen?

Diana Marchington

My three boys came from the hard-to-place bracket

FIRST PERSON

How do children who are adopted into a racially mixed family cope with the extra pressure put on them? I am white, single, old (52) compared to most adopters, and earn considerably less than I would receive if content to draw supplementary benefit - on face value not an ideal candidate for proxy parenthood. My little family of three boys all emanated from that "hard-to-place" bracket in which so many unconventional infants find themselves... David (15, Anglo-Negro), Andrew (10, Negro) and Simon (5, Anglo-Saxon). Had young married couples with iron stamina and bottomless wells of love and patience "put in" for any one of these boys I wouldn't - quite rightly - have stood an earthly chance of adopting them.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering are currently urging local authorities to ensure wherever possible that black children are adopted by black families. With the long-standing stress on "matching" however, this has surely always been the case. The problem is that you can't squeeze a quart into a pint pot. There are more coloured children needing homes than there are coloured couples wanting to adopt. Disinclined couples cannot be press-ganged into taking an infant - nor should they be.

Colour was the adoption "disability" concerning David and Andrew, mental and emotional aberration in the case of Simon. All were well past babyhood when they joined this one-sided family; all presented problems which would be put down to some form of "institutionalization"; all, with time and care, settled in with comfortable happiness and learned both to accept love and to give it.

We live in a village where there are no other coloured people. At



Diana Davenport with her mixed family (left to right) David, Simon and Andrew

school, in the local town, the boys share their distinction with no more than three or four others. Teasing in a mild form occasionally mars their horizons: but no more than if their hair were orange, their ears outstanding or their feet attached à la Charlie Chaplin. David once clouted a would-be tormenter. He's built like a Harlem Globe trotter and is not one to be trifled with.

Andrew, on the other hand, capitalizes on his colour. In the days of nannies he'd have been called a "show-off" and is inclined to needle

his peers until they snap. He then expects sympathy, and used, before I rumpled him, to get it. Now he's told to get on with it.

Only twice have I come across what might be seen as undiluted racial prejudice, and on both counts by people who knew nothing of our family, except that we were mixed. In the first instance it was the grandmother of some children who used to drop in to play. She made it plain to her daughter that she "didn't like it" - and of course the message got back to me. In the

second it was a total stranger in a restaurant who talked loudly for all to hear about "the old pig and her black litter". The boys themselves never knew of the first sight - and the second incident was so concerned about me being called an "old pig" in that they missed the point of the "black litter" altogether.

Educationally, the boys are doing well. David has been reading anything and everything since the age of 4. Andrew plays the violin with verve and has a good ear. They show every outward sign of being

secure, self-confident and "normal", though they have their disagreements and squabbles. So, yes, by all means place black children with black families whenever possible, but don't lose sight of the value of mixed-race households. Don't lose sight, either, of older females of any colour who, in the absence of more suitable applicants, may be happy to start a late family.

Diana Davenport

TALKBACK

Planned pregnancy

From Dr Paul Maxon, Leeds, West Yorkshire

Thank you for publishing such an attractive article on pre-pregnancy care (May 4). Much as I would like to do so, I am unable to enter into correspondence with individual mothers-to-be as I can only investigate patients registered with my own practice. Instead I recommend:-

- (1) Sending for the leaflet "Healthy Babies Begin Before You're Pregnant" 15p and a s.a.s. to The National Childbirth Trust (Leeds Branch), 8, Harlech Way, Garforth, Leeds, West Yorks.
- (2) When you have read this, ask your general practitioner to deal with any problems which remain and ask for referral to a local obstetrician or genetic counselling service as appropriate. Dietitians in maternity units should be able to advise on individual food diaries.

I would urge all mothers-to-be to think about spacing their pregnancies and this includes allowing enough time to elapse after a miscarriage. Allow at least one year to elapse between the birth of one child and the conception of the next.

Western diets are infinitely various and as traditional food culture has broken down, many women and their families are now vulnerable. My own studies show that women on low incomes, working women and those belonging to recently-arrived racial minorities are often on very poor diets, lacking notably in calorie intake. "B" vitamins including folic acid, and

vitamin "C" together with natural sources of zinc and iron.

Finally, may I appeal to your readers for information about sources of research funds to enable my work to continue into the advantages of pre-conception care in raising birthweights, reducing the incidence of disability and the liability to infection in infancy, which occurs in low birth weight babies.

Tune in to yourself

From Mrs Dana Nash, 43, Church Street, St. Albans, Hertfordshire

Ruth Winter, in her very interesting article about pre-conceptual care (May 4) makes the extraordinary statement that for eight weeks after conception, "a woman invariably does not realize she is pregnant." If this is indeed the case for many women - and it was certainly not for me - perhaps this is because women today are taught to think more about methods of contraception than about their own fertility.

Anyone who uses a natural method of fertility control, and especially the Billings method, knows all the time what the state of her fertility is: whether she is infertile or fertile, whether she is ovulating or not, and how many days she has to go until menstruation. Someone who is tuned in to herself in this way - and is not, of course interfering with her body by means of drugs or devices - knows within a few weeks if she has conceived.

More to prunes than custard and sniggers

It is a pity that to the British prunes are a joke by and large, socially acceptable only at the breakfast table and served, even there, with an air of regrettable necessity. Prunes and school humour have a lot to answer for.

The French, whose concern is for the health of their livers, treat prunes with the gastronomic respect they deserve. Spiced stewed prunes and custard, they turn dried plums into all manner of decent puddings and pies. One of the most delectable sweet treats I know are billowing prunes stuffed with a rich prune cake. They are sold in smart navy and gold tins, cost a fortune and Fortnum's stock them.

Prunes feature in many traditional European recipes for meat and game. The combination of pork and prunes is common from Spain to Poland in braises, stews and roasts. In the old Lancashire Wakes week, the chicken dish, Hindle Wakes, the prunes are rife of the taste for dried fruit and spices with meat, which was common in medieval England.

This recipe for a loin of pork stuffed with prunes and baked is easily adapted to less tender cut by extending the cooking time.

- Loin of pork with prunes
Serves six to eight
225 g (8 oz) plum prunes
900 g (2 lbs) boneless loin of pork (in one piece)
A small piece of green ginger, or 1

- teaspoon ground ginger
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
85 g (3 oz) butter
150 ml (½ pint) dry white wine
300 ml (½ pint) light stock

Cover the prunes with cold tea or water and soak them until they are soft enough for the stones to be removed easily. Stone them.

Cut a lengthwise slit in the meat and fill it with the prunes. Stitch the slit shut, enclosing the prunes. Crush the ginger in a garlic press and rub it over the meat. Season it well.

Melt half the butter and brown the meat on all sides on top of the stove. Add the wine and cook on a fairly high heat until it has reduced by half, then add the stock and bring to the boil. Transfer the meat to a shallow baking dish and roast it in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 1½ hours, basting it several times. To check that the pork is cooked, pierce it with a skewer inserted into the thickest part: it is cooked when the juices run clear.

Transfer the meat to a serving dish to keep warm. Reduce the pan juices by fast boiling to about 120 ml/4 fl oz. Stir in the remaining butter, a little at a time. This works best if the butter is very cold. Slice the meat and pour the sauce over it. Serve with plainly

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

cooked potatoes or noodles and a green vegetable or salad.

A heavy, velvety purée of prunes was a souvenir from a recent trip to France. The preserve was sold as a jam and this home-made version, like the original, is very good on hot buttered toast or stirred into plain yogurt. It can also be used as a cake filling, or as a base for whole prunes in a flan or tart.

- Prune preserve
Makes about 2 litres (4½ lbs)
900g (2 lbs) prunes
Juice of 2 lemons
900g (2 lbs) granulated or preserving sugar

soak for an hour or two, or better still, overnight, then bring to the boil and simmer until they are tender. Cool the prunes, remove the stones and puree the fruit with its cooking liquid, using a food processor or by working it through a mouli legumes or sieve. Return the purée to the pan and add the sugar. Stir on a low heat until the sugar has dissolved, then raise the heat and boil the preserve for five minutes. Pour it immediately into clean, dry, heated jars (10 minutes or more in a very cool oven 110°C/225°F, gas mark ½). Seal immediately and store until needed in a cool, dark place.

Frozen prune mousse
Makes about 1 litre (1½ pints)
450g (1 lb) plum prunes
Juice of 2 oranges
4 tablespoons honey or brown sugar
300ml (½ pint) double cream, chilled

Turn the freezer to its coldest setting. Put the prunes in a bowl with the orange juice and enough water or cold tea to cover them. Leave them to soak for an hour or two, or, better still, overnight. Simmer the prunes with their soaking liquid and the honey or brown sugar until they are very tender. When the prunes are cool enough to handle, remove the stones, then puree the fruit with the liquid in a food processor,

or by working them through a mouli legumes or a sieve. Whip the chilled cream with a tablespoon of iced water until it holds soft peaks. Combine it with the prune purée and turn the mixture into a serving dish or dishes. Cover and freeze until firm. Serve frozen prune mousse on its own or with a compote of dried fruit.

Variations on this recipe include a festive version of the mousse, studded with small pieces of prune which have been soaked until soft in cognac or armagnac. A mixture of prunes and dried apricots also makes a delicious frozen mousse.

French country cooking has quite a selection of prune tarts and flans ranging from a simple butter pudding, *far Breton*, to more formal pieces of glazed pâtisserie. This excellent prune flan is a nice compromise between the two extremes.

- Prune flan
Serves six to eight
450 g (1 lb) plum prunes
For the pastry
225 g (8 oz) plain flour
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons caster sugar
110 g (4 oz) chilled butter
Iced water to mix
For the filling
1 large egg
150 ml (½ pint) single cream
4 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon cornflour

- 2 tablespoons rum or cognac
30 g (1 oz) butter

Cover the prunes with water or cold tea and leave them to soak for an hour or two, or better still, overnight. Drain and stone them.

Sift the flour, salt and sugar into a bowl and add the butter cut in dice. Rub the fat into the flour and stir in enough iced water to make a firm dough. Rest the dough for at least 30 minutes before rolling it thinly on a lightly floured surface and using it to line a 25 cm (10 inch) loose-bottomed flan tin, preferably one which has fluted sides.

Bake the pastry shell, weighted with beans or rice, in a preheated oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 7) for 10 minutes, then remove the weights, lower the heat to moderate (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) and bake for 15 minutes more before filling.

Arrange the prunes over the base of the flan. Combine the egg, cream, sugar, cornflour and rum and mix well. Pour this mixture over the prunes and top with the butter cut in small dice. Return the flan to the oven and bake it for about another 40 minutes, or until the custard is firm. Serve hot, warm or cold. Warm is best.

Tomorrow: Modern Times peers at the neighbours over the garden fence

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THE TIMES DIARY

Anti-hanging

My political free-thinker this morning is Joe Harvey of Surbiton. He is seeking election for his native Bodmin in Cornwall as candidate of the charmingly named Very Good Party. It is, you will readily understand, not related to any other party. Harvey's manifesto has some three dozen points. Number Two is: "To remove hanging objects from car windows so as to improve vision", which sounds the simple sort of task even a politician could manage.

Harvey would also reduce VAT to 10 per cent. "It's easier to calculate then", he reasons. He proposes a 30 per cent surcharge on Japanese imports and would construct the Channel Tunnel. "I have worked in tunnels. The French will do their half," he promises. "We will do something for the prostitutes of this country", but with political tact he does not specify what. "I've no enemies", Harvey says, though of course I am afraid that would change if he got elected.

Hot air time

The SDP-Alliance campaign office in Brighton, Kempdown has been having trouble with its telephone; now the candidate, Tom Burke, has been told by his friendly neighbourhood newspaper that all their calls can be heard on transistor radios. Since the newspaper's shop is directly opposite Labour headquarters, Burke is perturbed, but I do not think he needs to worry. I spoke to the Labour agent, W. J. Clarke, who told me: "We are here to work, laddie. If anybody came in distracting us with a transistor radio, I would sling him out."

Track record

Much has been made of Margaret Thatcher's well-known aversion to trains, perhaps too much. Though she will be flying United Biscuits on her campaign sorties, the Prime Minister has still to get to Gatwick before she can achieve lift-off, and there, I am reliably informed, it is the train that will take the strain. Perhaps this means the Gatwick line will be prime candidate for hiving off if she is re-elected.

Street fighting

There is not much I can (or probably need to) do to help along the row about dirty tricks in the Conservative advertising campaign, but perhaps it is not too late to point out a technical foul in Central Office's advertisement which appeared in the *Daily Mail* on polling day for the local elections. It showed Hazelbourne Road, Clapham, one side of which is in Labour-controlled Lambeth, the other in Conservative-controlled Wandsworth. One side was labelled "Labour rates £504 a year", the other "Tory rates £392 a year". Since politicians can do so little right, it was probably inevitable that they got the sides of the road in the picture the wrong way round.

Lunshood

With the succession to the veteran Dutchman Joseph Luns as secretary-general of Nato still the subject of interminable speculation, the joke around Brussels is what Henry Kissinger once said: "The Netherlands have been independent for 400 years, and for most of that time Luns has been foreign minister."

Footing the bill

Remembering to drive on the right is the least of the problems faced by two London bus drivers in New York en route to Canada. Their vehicles, two old London double-deckers which have been sold by London Transport to Prince Edward Island, are 14ft 6in high, while many bridges in the five states they must cross have a clearance of only 13ft 6in. Each state has its own different system of permits and escort regulations, and the two drivers, Lionel Moss and John Warner, reckon the cost of expert guidance along a suitable route would be \$2,500, a sum which LT is not prepared to pay. The harassed pair are ruing the day they decided not to deliver the buses by sea, but to take in the Britain Salutes New York festivities.

Alarming case

If anything bugs me it is the weight of junk that burdens my briefcase. So I am an unlikely customer for the Secret Connection briefcase. It is so full of anti-bugging devices there is scarcely room for anything else. It has a tape recorder detector, a bug detection system, a built-in scrambler for telephone privacy, a wireless telephone, a six-hour recorder, portable defence and communications systems, a bomb-sniffer to warn of hidden explosives and it is lined with bullet-proof fabric. There is also a siren to sound the alarm if someone picks up the lot and makes off with it.

PHS

Dr. Michael MacDonald, director of the Scottish Tartan Museum, is safely returned from the Scots in Sweden exhibition in Stockholm. I say safely because his foreign tours are not without awkward moments. In America a silver-haired lady fixed her gaze on his seventeenth century sporran and asked: "What exactly do you carry in your sporran?" His reply was printable for all but reasons of length. It was a five-minute exposition of the word play between Latin, Greek and Gaelic for "seed-case" in biology and costume.

Bernard Levin spots the essential election issue

Cardowan: Labour puts its cards on the table

I could not have guessed that the argument at the heart of the election, the principle that defines both the nature of the contest and the irreducible difference between the Conservative and Labour parties, would be laid out, and in the starkest possible terms, not just in the first week of the campaign but on the very day that Parliament was dissolved. Yet so it has proved, and however far I stretch my imagination I cannot conjure up the picture of any domestic question that could rival in its role as the Occam's Razor of the 1983 campaign, the events at Cardowan colliery.

When I say "the events", I am not referring to the fracas that took place at the pit after the announcement that it was to be closed, the manhandling of Mr Albert Wheeler and Mr John Loudon, National Coal Board director and deputy director for Scotland, was unpleasant, but the throwing of ice-creams and meat pies (apparently the favoured missiles), or even the breaking of Mr Loudon's spectacles, does not suggest to me that the rough beast, its hour come round at last, is slouching towards Glasgow to be born. What interests me is the case made by the Coal Board for closing the pit, and the response to the Coal Board's arguments.

The pit has lost £39m in six years, and the rate of loss is increasing (it lost £8m last year and will lose £10m this year); the geology of the area makes it difficult to work, productivity is no more than two-fifths of the national coal-mining average (Mr Wheeler described this phenomenon, with somewhat less tact than the occasion seemed to call for, as "a lack of effort on the part of the men"), the mine is so full of gas that its local nickname is "the gas mine", and in case all that wasn't enough, the coal it produces in such

small quantities and at such a cost is of a type that nobody anywhere wants to buy.

So much for economics, but economics, particularly during an election campaign, is not enough. What about humanity? What about Cardowan's 1,090 miners, thrown penniless out of work in a declining industry during a recession? What indeed? It transpires that no miner is to be thrown penniless out of work. Those who choose can take redundancy payments, together with a pension starting now and continuing until they reach the normal retiring age and their normal pension; those who do not so choose are offered employment at one of three other pits, and up to £1,500 for the disturbance of the move.

The Conservative minister into whose province the matter falls has refused to intervene to reverse the Coal Board's decision. But the Labour shadow minister has promised that if his party wins the election the closure order will be rescinded and the pit will stay open.

Now I trust you can see why it is unlikely that between now and June 9 anything will happen to provide a more perfect *vade mecum* for aspiring political chicken-sexers. Mrs Thatcher does not need to urge the voters to dispel the dark clouds of Marxism; she need only ask them whether they are or are not of the school that would wish to go on supporting economic activity which is literally worse than useless (worse at present by some £10m a year), in circumstances that ensure that no human being will suffer if the activity is brought to an end.

I am, of course, aware that a man writing from inside the newspaper industry is not ideally placed for condemning the practice of employing people whose work serves no detectable purpose. But the news-

papers are not yet in the public sector (though Mr Scargill has demanded their nationalisation, and Mr Moss Evans has urged a return to the practice of government licensing for them), and my interest in what the bosses do with their own money is confined to seeing that they provide me with ample quantities of it.

Besides, what we do about the nationalised industries (of which there will be a good few more if Labour wins the election) has a bearing not only on the proportion of national resources used by the state but, by example as well as economic policy, on private industry as well: if the present government is returned and starts to do to the public sector what it has hitherto only promised to do, I may yet live (I am reasonably fit for a man of my age) to see the principles espoused by the Coal Board at Cardowan flowing, Etna-like, down Fleet Street.

For the moment, though, let us concentrate on the election and on its illumination by the events at the Scottish pit. On the one side is a beleaguered organization, with a statutory duty to seek economic efficiency, deciding on the discontinuation of a line of goods that cannot be made efficiently or indeed at all except at ruinous expense and for which no customers can be found, while taking care to ensure that even the employees who have contributed to the inefficiency are looked after. On the other side is a state of mind in which the only thing that matters is to make sure that anything that has been done in the past and is being done at the present must go on being done in *saecula saeculorum*.

It is useless to tell the Labour Party that the principle espoused by the Coal Board at Cardowan

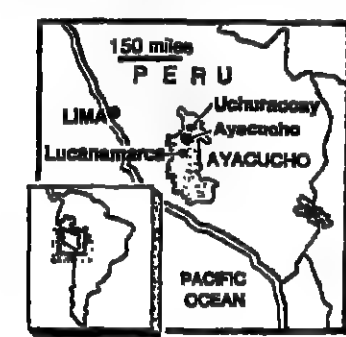
provides the only explanation for the fact that the human race has become more prosperous over the centuries; if it comes to that, it is useless to tell the Labour Party that it would not make sense for 1,090 coalminers to be employed to scrape my toast when I turn it and carry the scrapings away in a wheelbarrow for sale as Nutty Slack, Grade One. The Labour Party believes that prosperity droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven, that it is

Something noble and grand and good,
Won by merely wishing we could.

and that if there are men who scrape my toast they must be kept in employment even if there is no sale for the scrapings, indeed even if the toast is not burnt, nay, even if I give up eating toast at breakfast, burnt or unburnt, altogether.

On that ground they take their stand, and on that ground they solicit my vote and the votes of others, a solicitation which in my case (I do not claim to speak for the others) is in vain. I have hopes, though so far no more than hopes, that the Conservative Party will, no doubt, win due discretion now embodied in this crucial principle on their battleflag, and march to victory beneath it. But my voting intentions, and the outcome of the election, are not really germane to my task today, which is simply to draw attention to the remarkably clear way in which the choice before the electorate has been presented, before the ink on the election proclamation is dry. Britain has had in her time a Khaki Election, a Coupon Election, a Midlothian Election. It is possible that in 1983 we shall find ourselves taking part in a Cardowan Election.

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Trail of death along the Shining Path

Lima Reports of bloody clashes between the security forces and left-wing guerrillas have become routine in the central highlands of Peru. Official figures put the number of deaths in the first four months of this year at 455, compared with 138 in the whole of 1982. Altogether, 776 people are said to have died since hostilities began in May, 1980. The Ayacucho region, where the fighting is taking place, has been under military control since last December, and all official information is channelled through General Clemente Noel, the sole authority for the region. He will answer no questions, and journalists are banned from areas where clashes are said to be taking place. Everything is quiet in the town of Ayacucho, where some 2,000 troops are based, but there are signs that a very "dirty" war is being fought in the countryside against the Maoist guerrillas of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) movement.

The general's version of events, which is reproduced with few exceptions by the Lima press, seems to have more to do with psychological warfare than with an accurate account. It is designed to destroy any sympathy that the local population might have for the guerrillas, and to give the impression that they are rapidly being wiped out. But this is highly doubtful.

A constant feature of military reports of armed clashes is that no bodies are produced, few names are given, and no detailed account is supplied of the circumstances. No military casualties are ever reported. The 307 deaths reported in April

were made up of 166 Senderistas and 141 peasants. The authorities claim that Sendero Luminoso has been carrying out indiscriminate massacres of villagers who refuse to support the guerrillas, or have sided with the elected government of President Fernando Belaunde Terry. Few people in Ayacucho, however, believe that this is what is happening. Sendero's brand of fundamentalist Maoism places great emphasis on close relations with the poor peasantry, whose interests the guerrillas claim to represent.

The guerrillas are capable of great brutality - it is a brutal society - but it is difficult to see what they would have to gain from random killings. Sendero operations have included raids on large estates, and the execution of local officials and notables (such as shopkeepers and moneylenders) singled out as exploiters of the poor peasants. The guerrillas have usually gone through a form of "popular trial", in which the charges are read out to the assembled villagers, and they are asked to decide on execution or some less drastic form of exemplary punishment, such as flogging.

These actions seem to have been accepted, even welcomed, by the majority of peasants in this poverty-stricken region, where the few better-off families are easily identifiable. In some cases Sendero released people due to be executed after appeals by villagers. The summary methods of Sendero have also helped to rid isolated communities of bandits and rustlers, who often terrorize entire regions.

Since the military occupation of Ayacucho, however, the security forces have succeeded in convincing

even some peasants that the guerrillas want to take away their land and property, and should be killed on sight. General Noel has been skilful both in exploiting traditional rivalries between peasant communities, and the often bitter divisions between individual villagers. By such methods as supplying food, drink and equipment, the guerrillas have also recruited large numbers of spies and informers.

The guerrillas seem to have stepped up the number of reprisal killings of informers in recent months, which may have lost them some support. They have also been weakened by the very speed with which the movement has spread through Ayacucho and the neighbouring departments of Huancavelica and Apurimac. Sendero does not hold territory like a conventional force, but comes and goes. It cannot, therefore, defend its strongholds against reprisals.

The recent upsurge in killings appears to be connected, to some extent, with the growing activities of so-called "paramilitary" bands of villagers, acting as auxiliaries of the armed forces.

In some particularly brutal cases, such as that of Lucanamarca, in Victor Fajardo province, where more than 60 people were massacred, informed observers believe that "paramilitaries" may have been responsible, as a reprisal for villagers' participation in a popular trial. Official reports blamed Sendero for the slaughter, in which women and children were hacked to death with axes. A pre-government magazine said it was a *senderista* reprisal after villagers rebelled against

guerrilla exactions, and killed seven of them. No convincing evidence was produced, however.

Axes are the preferred weapon of peasants from the village of Uchumayo, many miles to the north, who killed eight Peruvian journalists in late January. An official commission of inquiry, concluded that the villagers had mistaken the approaching journalists for guerrillas, and immediately attacked them.

This report, however, leaves many difficult questions unanswered, and other evidence points to the involvement of paramilitary bands, with or without the direct involvement of the security forces. One theory is that the journalists had stumbled on the formation of such bands in a nearby village and were on their way to investigate. They were killed, according to this account, to prevent them producing evidence that would have contradicted the official claim that whole villages were spontaneously turning against the guerrillas.

The paramilitary bands, which are also known as peasant patrols, have natural leaders in former national servicemen; one of them is thought to have been involved in Uchumayo, but has never been arrested. Which ever he is doing the killing, there is little doubt that it is peasants rather than guerrillas who are dying. Although Sendero has been cleared out of the city and some other areas that it once dominated, there is nothing to support official contentions that it is all but beaten.

Colin Harding

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Arctophily for that warm, friendly feeling

If the wayward Lord Sebastian Flyte of *Brideshead Revisited* had listened more often to his teddy bear Aloysius than to his very odd Oxford friends he would never have ended up dead drunk in a ditch in Tunisia. We might all benefit from a word or two with our childhood bruits and anyone who thinks there is anything namby pamby or cissy about teddies had better keep his mouth shut in front of Lt-Col Robert Henderson, Royal Scots (retired).

When the Colonel was on Montgomery's staff he kept a small teddy bear, buried deep in his kitbag, which he regarded as a talisman of a new order. "It was my link with home and happiness. I always had my little bear with me. I got a great deal of comfort from that bear and it helped me get through the war."

When he left the army he helped found the International Good Bears of the World Movement, which sends bears to sick and needy children. From his greystone house

in Edinburgh, where he now has 550 bears of his own, he has just brought out the 41st edition of the movement's journal, *Bear Tracks*.

"The teddy bear is the most wonderful ambassador of peace and would stop all wars," said the Colonel, now 79. General Patton would probably have had him shot if he had ever overheard him voicing such a thought. But if Patton had bought a teddy instead of pearl-handled six-shooters he might have been a nicer man.

Just try explaining Thrasymachus's argument in Plato's *Republic* that Might is Right to a golden syrup coloured creature who knows you are secretly frightened of the dark. After about three minutes you realize it's all a bit silly.

"Our society does not exist just to give a sick child a teddy," said the Colonel. "We want to find out more about the power of the bear. Why we like teddy bears is as Lady Antonia Fraser says in her *History of Toys*, one of the most interesting psychological problems of our time. My

own papers on the mystique of the bear are all based on Jungian psychology. He made a great deal of the archetypal symbolic bear in alchemy and ancient mythology."

All of which is not as strange as it sounds. Studies in America have shown the teddy bear to be a powerful giver of solace, especially in the case of a child in hospital. Rabbits, dogs and dummies do not elicit the same emotional response.

The Colonel has written a series of papers, one day to be published as a book, on why bears disarm us. Deep down everyone is an arctophile, a lover of bears. The craze started on one of President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt's hunting expeditions.

The President, not famous for his finer feelings, saw a cuddly bear cub abandoned by its mother, looking at him with pleading eyes, and for some reason could not bring himself to blow its head off. The act of mercy was lampooned by a cartoonist in the *Washington Star* and someone naturally started making

"teddy bears" to cash in on the joke. "The Americans go in for teddies in a big way," added the Colonel. "Mat Murphy, the president of the Bank of Montreal in San Francisco has more than a thousand."

One used to travel in state everywhere with a bygone King of Thailand while another scaled the Matterhorn. A teddy soldiered with the Polish Free Forces during the war and was promoted to the rank of brigadier because of the luck he brought.

But teddies can sometimes slip up. One called Mr Wopple sat next to land and water speed ace Donald Campbell as he somersaulted to eternity on Coniston Water.

Bears have a great sense of propriety. Rupert Bear was never at home in the naughty magazine *Oz*. When a naked man jumped into a bear pit at London Zoo recently, he brins Rusty and Tumble, who together weigh half a ton, fled in panic like affronted spinsters.

Paul Pickering

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A Tory plea: keep Benn out of view

JUNE 24 '83

Jock
Bruce-Gardyne

Like most members of the House of Commons, I suspect, I looked upon elections as something akin to periodic obligatory medical examinations.

At best, time-consuming, at worst, fraught with disaster. Needless to say now I am excited attendance for the first time in 20 years I feel miserable about it. Each campaign swiftly develops its own special character. Yet of the six I fought all save one, I believe, had one feature in common: the result was a foregone conclusion from the day of dissolution. The exception, of course, was February 1974 (not June 1970) - on that occasion Labour's brief and misleading lead in the campaign got the party preferences all right, but slipped up on propensity to vote. But I find Barbara Castle's analogy between this election and that of February 1974 perverse. On that occasion the Government resorted most reluctantly to the country in the hope that this would somehow resolve a calamitous industrial conflict. In short it asked a silly question, and got the answer it deserved. There is no conceivable parallel with June 1983.

This campaign, at any rate, does not look like being an exception to my rule. A couple of weeks ago I was chatting to a lobby journalist when a prominent Labour left-winger joined us. "How's things?", the journalist asked him. He gave a great groan: "It's written in the skies." What was written he didn't say. But nothing, one gathered, for Michael Foot's comfort.

Talking of Michael Foot, what on earth were his minders up to allowing the old gentleman to launch his campaign before the cameras on Hampstead Heath. In tow to his hairy little dog and stick in air - the very model of the mad professor? I have never gone along with the view that modern elections are simple personality contests between the rival leaders, if they were Ted Heath could not have won in 1970, nor Mrs Thatcher in 1979 - let alone Clem Attlee in 1945. Still, it is hard to believe that Michael Foot will strike the average voter as the sort of bloke it would be safe to let loose in Downing Street.

It is just as well, therefore, that counselling the Prime Minister to eschew complacency would be as superfluous as urging Mr Jenkins not to neglect the inner man, or reminding Mr Healey that consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds. She is not given to reading on her laurels, the opinion polls, or anything else for that matter. There

is little danger of encouragement being given to the spathy abstainers this time. If the Tory campaign has got off to a slightly slower start than those of our opponents, that is by calculation. And well judged, I'd guess: three weeks is more than enough for most of our fellow-citizens.

If there is a hazard to the Government it is not spathy, but tactical voting. This propensity of the citizen to switch his vote to save it being "wasted" used to be confined to by-elections. But more recently (encouraged, no doubt, by the preference of local Labour parties for loony lecturers as candidates) it has been spreading to general elections too. So on balance if I were fighting this election I think I would rather Labour did keep Tony Wedgwood Benn under wraps. In a good many seats the less the Labour faithful know about their party, the better from the Tory point of view.

What, then, of the manifesto? I got into hot water with some of my colleagues for suggesting, just before the 1979 election, in an article in "another" newspaper, some specific plans for public spending cuts to be included in our manifesto. Just the stuff to frighten the horses, I was told. My justification was that manifestos matter when you've won, and need to get the Whitehall machines to swallow unstable medicine: in terms of winning or losing votes they lack potency. I would stand by that.

The Tory manifesto was yet to see the light of day at time of writing. Of the other two, Labour's has had a well-merited roasting, that of the Alliance has been praised with faint damns. I wonder whether that is altogether right. Labour's vision is 1974-75 with knobs on, and would not be helped by the lack of the International Monetary Fund. The Gang of Four have in mind a replay of 1972-74, with "responsible reflation" pinned together by the statutory control of incomes. That would take rather longer to bring us back to Arthur Scargill and Moss Evans parking their tanks in Downing Street. Give me the brokers' men any day.

The author was Economic Secretary to the Treasury and Conservative MP for Knaresborough. He is not seeking re-election.

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Tomorrow: Barbara Castle

James Curran

The wavering harvest Foot could reap

The majority of MPs are convinced that a Conservative victory on June 9 is a foregone conclusion. The Conservative Party began the campaign with a larger lead, sustained over a longer period of time, than any political party since 1945. Margaret Thatcher, the resolute victor of the Falklands war, dwarfs Michael Foot in the opinion polls. And the anti-Tory vote will be split between the Labour Party and the Alliance.

Most informed commentators have also written off Labour's chances. They point to profound social changes that favour the Conservative Party. The growth of home ownership and the contraction of the manual working class has shrunk Labour's base, while an ideological shift to the right has allegedly undermined support for Labour's policies.

The oft-repeated claim that the country has moved decisively to the right is merely an intuitive assumption inferred from the Tories' continuing lead in the opinion polls. It is not borne out by surveys of public attitudes which reveal a tenacious, if somewhat bewildered, commitment to the old consensus based on welfare, capitalism and tripartite management of the economy.

The latest MORI survey shows, for instance, that Thatcherite initiatives on promoting private health insurance, encouraging private education and cutting local council spending are supported by only one in three people. Yet the same study reveals a remarkably resilient commitment to the corporate politics of the late 1970s; those in favour of the government working closely with the unions and of ensuring that management consults unions over key company decisions outnumbered those against by a margin of more than two to one.

These last two proposals are incorporated into Labour's new manifesto. Indeed, the most striking finding of the survey (based on a large national quota sample) is the strength of support that exists for the key elements of Labour's alternative economic strategy.

The overwhelming majority (including substantial numbers of Conservative and Alliance supporters) favour price and import controls and increased public spending to create jobs. Labour enjoys popular support for other policies, as well as being assessed more positively than the Conservative Party on the issue judged to be paramount - jobs. It is now in a much stronger position than it was in the 1979 general election when, as Professor Ivor Crewe has demonstrated, many of its policies were unpopular, even among its supporters, some of whom appear to have voted Labour more out of loyalty than conviction. Indeed, the situation has now been

reversed: Labour's policies are now more popular than the party.

Labour's task in the campaign will thus be to convert support for its policies into hard votes. In this, it may well be helped by the lack of commitment of a large section of the electorate to all the political parties. Between 23 per cent and 29 per cent of the electorate (depending on the poll), say that they may change their voting intention during the campaign. The potential exists for an electoral upset.

A further unpredictable factor is tactical voting. Although the anti-Tory vote is arguably split between the Alliance and Labour, it may coalesce in ways that are not anticipated. Surveys suggested that a significant number of Labour and Alliance supporters do not share the mutual antagonism of their party leaders, and will support the non-Tory candidate most likely to win in their constituency.

Nor is social change as one-sidedly to the advantage of the Conservatives as commentators are suggesting. The decline of social deference has chipped away the cement binding working class traditionalists to the Conservative Party. The rise of mass unemployment has hit certain groups particularly badly, most notably women. The growing union recruitment of the lower middle class, now more subject to management pressure for increased productivity of the sort experienced by manual workers, also has unpredictable consequences.

The personal, vote-winning magnetism of Margaret Thatcher has also been exaggerated. Satisfaction with her premiership (44 per cent) is currently slightly lower than it was for Douglas-Home (47 per cent) at the beginning of the 1964 general election. Her personality has probably also contributed to the widely diffused image of the Conservative Party as a narrowly class-bound and uncaring party - a view that is particularly prevalent among uncommitted voters.

However, the Conservative Party has significant electoral strengths that Labour will need to dent in the next three weeks. The Conservatives are rated more favourably on the important issues of prices, law and order, and (to a lesser extent) defence. Labour has an unfortunate image of being divided and unprofessional, and support for its economic policies is also qualified, in some people's minds, by concern about the inflationary consequences.

Whether Labour has left it too late to repair its disunited image and effectively project its economic alternative remains to be seen. What is clear, in view of the Tories' rapidly diminishing lead in the opinion polls, is that the election result should not be prejudged.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.

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PRIMA INTER PARES

British Cabinet Government is a robust and flexible instrument. It has functioned efficiently in both peace, total war and limited war. In the twentieth century the demands of mobilising the home front and despatching expeditionary forces abroad have proved powerful engines for its development and extension. The experience of Lloyd George, who in 1916 expanded the secretariat of the Committee of Imperial Defence into a proper Cabinet machine, and Mr Winston Churchill, who in 1940 created a hefty yet effective Cabinet Committee apparatus to run the British branch of World War II, both illustrate the wisdom of Professor Arthur Marwick's dictum that:

"Wars are like weddings: essentially extravagant and unnecessary, but a great stimulant in a conventional society."

In 1945 Mr Clement Attlee consolidated the Coalition's Cabinet Committee Structure and made it the engine room of his administration. For all her rhetoric about rolling back the state, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet system is the unmistakable, though slimmer descendant of Mr Attlee's. She did not want any Cabinet committees in May 1979. But events took care of that. In four years she has created some 25 standing Cabinet Committees against 157 in 1945, and about 95 ad hoc "MISC" groups to Mr Attlee's 306 "GENS".

It is, therefore, of more than minor interest when the impression gets abroad that a fundamental shift in the nature of Cabinet Government is under way. There is a view that Mrs Thatcher aspires to be a "president under the crown". It even crept into the election campaign on the BBC *Panorama* programme on Monday night when Mr John Silkin, the Whitehall-watcher of the Labour front

bench, described her as "a very presidential kind of Prime Minister".

The "President Thatcher" image is misplaced. Apart from anything else, Mr Ronald Reagan, the real President upon whom she presumably would have to model herself, is in the process of constructing something passably like a Cabinet Committee system in Washington. He has created six new "cabinet councils" for domestic and economic affairs. His administration even contains a public spending committee almost identical to Mrs Thatcher's MISC 62, the "Star Chamber" established to enforce cuts on reluctant ministers.

During the election campaign, there will be attempts to reinforce the impression of a constitutional shift. Since the first truly television election of 1959, in which the Macmillan-Gaitskell rivalry acquired, by previous British standards, distinctly presidential overtones, electoral contests have inevitably become personalized campaigns. Mrs Thatcher's recently proclaimed intention to build up her Prime Minister's Office in Downing Street, if re-elected, adds another element to the story.

As our series in *The Times* this week has shown, it would be premature to suggest that such a shift has, in fact, occurred. As a very senior Whitehall figure, who has helped several premiers through their darker moments, said privately recently: "I do not think we are within a million miles of having prime ministerial government in this country."

Naturally, a modern Prime Minister must be more than *primus inter pares* if the system is to function. Policy initiation and leadership would seem to be that were not so. Mrs Thatcher like all her post-war predecessors

is a rung above her secretaries of state. But he, like those who have gone before, has an acute sense of what he can get through Cabinet and that will fail.

Will a strengthened Prime Minister's Office push her too far up the ladder? It might do so, if she disbanded the Cabinet Office, which serves ministers collectively, an subsumed it into a new Prime Minister's Department, led and largely staffed by her own outside political appointees. That would mean a decisive shift in the constitutional arrangements of the Cabinet system if there was temptation in the aftermath of the Falklands, who she felt badly served by the machine, it seems now to have passed.

An enlarged Prime Minister's Office containing hand-picked policy analysts to collate files of information to save her time would be a sensible innovation working with the grain of established constitutional principle and sound administrative practice. Mrs Thatcher may recruit up to 20 people from within the bureaucracy and outside to work alongside Professor Alan Walters, Sir Antony Parsons, Mr Ferdinand Mount and Mr Roger Jackson. They would also be a chief-of-staff name at present unknown. Such an office should be peopled with independent minds.

The test for the Prime Minister and her future chief-of-staff must be: will the remodelled office survive a change of government? Or will it be seen as an artifact of an overmighty premier and suffer the fate of Lloyd George's "Garden Suburb" in 1922? If she returns to Downing Street on June 10, Mrs Thatcher has a chance to build something of value, not just for herself, but for the future holders of prime ministerial office. She should not waste it.

THE BLACK HOPE OF AFRICA

It is very sad to see the Kenyan political elite indulging in infighting when the economic hardship currently afflicting all Africa requires such a poor country to hold together as never before. More is the pity that elements of the Kenyan press and not a few politicians have unjustifiably threatened to embroil Britain, Kenya's staunchest ally, in the country's internal arguments.

As is so often the case in one-party states - albeit relatively tolerant ones, like Kenya - the knife-work is being done behind the scenes: no one knows precisely what is happening or which politicians will emerge on top or at the bottom. Political attacks are being made more by allusion and parable than by frontal assault; there is talk of hyena and snake; unknown "foreign powers" are said to be "grooming" favourites; alas, it is partly President Daniel Arap Moi's own hyperbole that has excited rumour-fed suspicion and the consequent wave of instability as perceived abroad.

Nor has an alleged "traitor", said more by innuendo than by hard evidence to have been plotting, been named. Political observers in Nairobi say that fingers have been pointing at Mr Charles Njonjo, the Minister for Constitutional Affairs and certainly an outspoken proponent of Kenya's pro-Western orientation. He is a powerful man with many enemies eager to snatch at an opportunity to embarrass him. But he is an exceptionally shrewd and tough political operator, unlikely to be easily written off by innuendo or even by presidential dicta.

Kenya has never quite recovered from the bloody but abortive coup attempt of last August, when probably at least a thousand, perhaps twice that figure, died. The push was launched by NCOs and junior officers of the ground-based Kenya Air Regiment, just the sort of dissident breeding ground expected in time of economic stress.

In the past five years or so, standards of living for most Kenyans have dropped. The rural poor, still the vast majority, are to some extent injured to

misfortune caused, among other things, by the vagaries of the climate; at the lower end of the burgeoning new urban class, however, the pinch has become more painful, and is worsened by the sight of the privileged and politically well connected maintaining their extremely comfortable lifestyles, while mismanagement and corruption continue.

But there has been an enduring, uneasy feeling that other disgruntled people, especially students and certain sections of the armed forces, have been playing a game of wait-and-see. It was gratifying to Mr Moi and to his friends in the West that the large bulk of the forces, and probably the average Kenyan too, did swing behind him. But rumours that other coup plots have not been fully scotched. Some ministers, it has been mooted, have been waiting in the wings for Mr Moi to trip up.

Some weeks after the coup, the rumour mills began working again when the head of the police, previously known as a strong Moi supporter, was disgraced. Later the airforce chief was sentenced for failing to report the coup having known it to be imminent.

The trouble, in fact, goes back way beyond August. In the admirably smooth transition after the death of Mr Kenyatta in 1978, a triumvirate took over. At its head was Mr Moi, the constitutional heir apparent; solid, respected, a sound administrator with no special élan and from a small tribe with no great clout of its own. There was Mr Mwai Kibaki, Vice-President and at the time Finance Minister: an urbane, clever though not particularly assertive Kikuyu with notable economic skills; and Mr Njonjo, then the Attorney-General, also a Kikuyu though from a different region from Mr Kibaki's an emicaste grise with no popular base but an unrivalled knowledge of manipulating the legal and civil service machinery.

At least two years ago it was evident that the triumvirate had lost its cohesion. Mr Moi has been sharply increasing his own powerbase, especially among the

Kalenjin (to which his own small Tugen group belongs), to the dismay of Kikuyu chauvinists accustomed to having a disproportionate slice of the cake. Mr Njonjo, becoming an MP and vigorously building up a measure of popular support in Kikuyuland, fell out with Mr Kibaki and gave the impression of covering the vice-presidency, which automatically assumes power for a critical three months should the president die. Mr Moi, it seems, has become exasperated by the battle for supremacy in Kikuyuland.

Kenya's enemies, especially Tanzania, are no doubt delighted. There is also a growing body of leftist opinion in the West that is against the Kenyan regime. It points out with relish that since the coup, the freedoms vaunted by Kenya since independence - a wide degree of public debate, even a sort of pluralism, within the one-party framework; a combative, more or less open press; academic liberty; an absence of political prisoners - have been curtailed. That is sadly true. But in Africa comparisons are crucial. Set against its neighbours, especially sanctimonious Tanzania, Kenya remains a beacon of humanity, sanity and openness.

The press is leaped upon but diverse; Tanzania has no press worthy of the name at all. A dozen Kenyan intellectuals are detained without trial: a tiny number when compared with the thousands imprisoned without trial for various offences in past decades in Tanzania and in Kenya's other four neighbours. University debate has been cramped and politicians put under pressure to conform. But despite the fear, Kenya is still more free than most.

But Mr Moi lacks the stature of Mr Kenyatta. Kenya, with its horrifying population increase and dearth of natural resources (it is far poorer, potentially, than Tanzania), is passing through a bad patch, economic and political. On balance, however, it still deserves every sort of assistance. In this time of trouble, Mr Moi needs to play his hand firmly. But his cards are weaker than before, and he should not nervously overplay them.

Education commitment

From Mr Ben Vincent
Sir, I am puzzled at the implication of the letter (May 9) from Mr Nick Earle that schools outside the public system are more responsive to parental opinion about education than are the people's own schools. How many independent schools have strong parents' associations which elect members to the board of governors? Almost all provided schools have this link with parents. What's more, of course, the other governors are almost all elected by bodies upon which the parents are represented or for which they have votes. A high proportion of county

councillors, who have general control of the schools, are parents or grandparents of children in our schools and I think this applies especially to the education committees. A high proportion were themselves educated in our schools. Very many are on close terms of acquaintance with our teachers and heads. Mr Earle evidently trembles at the risk this involves of "political" interference in the schools but in a long life in the educational world I can truly say I have never heard a single accusation of party political influence in the appointment of heads, still less of partisan staff, or of political bias in the curriculum or educational

methods. My knowledge of independent schools leads me to think that the great majority of the governors and trustees are self-appointed and that the parents have little or no say in who shall be a governor. I think it is well known that the governors of most of the schools tend to be educationally conservative and politically Conservative as well. No political bias, indeed!

Yours faithfully,
BEN VINCENT,
4 Hawthorne Road,
Radlett,
Hertfordshire.
May 9.

Instability in world's debt crisis

From Mr M. M. Guerreiro

Sir, Deepak Lal's excellent and illuminating article on the international debt crisis (May 6) does have one important shortcoming. Dr Lal's article makes the relevant point that the current level of international indebtedness is low in comparison with historical levels earlier in this century. However, he fails to emphasize the crucial distinction between contemporary sovereign bank lending and the earlier forms of investment.

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries most international capital movements were either direct foreign investments (as in foreign-owned mines or factories) or privately held portfolio investments in specific enterprises (as in railway bonds, etc). In either case the purpose of the loans was known and the commercial viability of the ventures could be assessed. In contrast, most contemporary commercial finance to developing nations has taken the form of bank loans to sovereign governments.

This development has had several important consequences:
1. There is no longer any necessary link between the contemporary loans and viable projects which will provide the returns necessary to repay the debts.

CND and communism

From Mrs Diana Collins

Sir, I am grateful to Lord Home for his generous and courteous letter of apology (May 14) and I accept entirely that he never had any intention of making any reflection on my late husband's integrity. Since, however, I have in front of me extracts from Lord Home's original speech (July 22, 1961) and also the full text of the correspondence between him and my late husband, I feel obliged to correct Lord Home on further statements made in his letter of May 9.

In his speech Lord Home did not specify any organization, but most people, including the media, members of whom immediately contacted my husband, took it that his remarks were aimed at CND.

My husband wrote protesting at Lord Home's suggestion that organizations were penetrated by communists. "I was not saying that they were, but that they were on the verge of being so," he wrote. He asked for evidence to substantiate such a claim in respect of CND. There was at no point any question of my husband threatening Lord Home with a libel action and he said nothing about Christian Action.

Lord Home replied that he "expressed in individual communists to 'have joined genuine organizations with instructions to penetrate them for their own ends'. He produced no evidence to substantiate his original statement.

My husband never denied the presence of individual communists in CND, in fact he discussed the matter openly in his book *Faith Under Fire*. He was always aware of "our chaplains" role in the past. I can testify categorically that there were never any communists on any committee of Christian Action, of which my husband was also chairman.

I can find nothing to substantiate Lord Home's story that four communists wrote to the press stating that they admitted "that they were on my husband's executive committee". He does not say which executive committee.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA COLLINS,
11 Rennie Court,
Stamford Street, SE1.
May 16.

From Mr M. Graham-Jones

Sir, Canon Collins was succeeded as Chairman of Christian Action by the Rev John Drewett, who then died almost at once. I succeeded him and therefore know something of those matters which have got Lord Home

2. Previously, there were no "cross default" agreements whereby if one loan went bad, all were held to be in default.

3. Unlike earlier private ventures, governments cannot go bankrupt as the result of imprudent investments (or at least so the banks thought). The effect of these three factors was to reduce the incentives for lenders to change appropriate risk premiums and take measures to assure that the loans would be invested productively.

Another factor of major importance is that the earlier forms of international finance were not inextricably entwined with the domestic credit systems of the lending nations. Thus when Brazil defaulted on its bonds in the 1930s, banks didn't collapse in Europe; instead private investors lost out.

For all of these reasons the contemporary pattern of international commercial lending, while modest in scale, is far less stable than that which existed prior to the Great Depression.

Yours sincerely,
MATTHEW M. GUERREIRO,
Magdalen College,
Oxford.
May 6.

of The Hirsch into such a tangle (his letters of May 9 and 14). It is important that they be straightened out for the public for the work of a former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary carry weight with many supporters of voluntary organisations.

Lord Home knows better than most of us that there is only one way in which an organisation can make sense of not being penetrated (whether by agents of communist Powers, the South African Government or the CIA). That way is to close down. Is that what Lord Home would have our voluntary bodies do?

When working closely with Canon Collins, occasionally representing him and Christian Action at international gatherings (World Peace Council and others) we did all we could to distinguish between those people Canon Collins called "harmless" sentimentalists, "silly dupes", "birelings" or "fellow travellers" from those men and women of integrity with whom he believed the Christian had a duty to engage in dialogue.

Are the categories now identified by the Apostrophe Pro-Nuncio different? Are there grounds for believing that Mr Kent is less well aware of the challenges than was Canon Collins?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRAHAM-JONES
16A Lower Belgrave Street, SW1.
May 16.

The chaplain's role

From Canon Eric James

Sir, It is a nice idea of Captain Christopher Ward, RN (May 14) that "our chaplains" role is totally non-political. It bears, I fear, little relation to reality in time of war.

I happen to collect the printed sermons of Bishop Winnington-Ingram, Bishop of London during the Great War. I have before me now the picture of him in uniform as Chaplain to the London Rifle Brigade and his sermon to soldiers at Bixley (September 6, 1914) entitled, "The Holy War".

He wrote in the *Guardian* for June 10, 1915: "You ask for my advice in a sentence as to what the 'church is to do. I answer, mobilise the nation for a holy war'."

The Bishop took received in writing the thanks of Lord Kitchener.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC JAMES,
43 Howarth Hill,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire.
May 14.

Pension discrimination

From Mr D. C. Spencer

Sir, It becomes Lord Byers to attribute to the views of others their lack of the rudiments of arithmetic. His letter (May 5) makes it clear that he does not understand the pension injustice which is built into pension schemes that are based on final-year incomes.

This fundamental inequity is perhaps best seen by comparing two employees who stay in the same scheme throughout their working lives: one on a low, stable income - typically a shop-floor worker - the other who progresses upwards through a number of executive/managerial grades.

In extreme cases the yields in terms of pension in relation to the actuarial value of their individual contributions (i.e., their personal pension pots) will be more than twice as high for the second person as for the first. The essence of all final-year schemes is that the pensions of the better paid are subsidised from the contributions of the lower paid.

Lord Byers's "snag" is that this

injustice would not be perpetuated.

Yours sincerely,
D. C. SPENCER,
21 Drake Road,
Wells,
Somerset.
May 10.

From Mr Stuart Walker

Sir, A young leaver from a pension fund is usually offered a smaller amount of transfer money than that made available for an older leaver with the same record of service with the employer.

Conversely, an older applicant for a job, being more costly to regard the pension contributions to be paid by the new employer, is less likely to be successful than a young applicant with the same qualifications.

Is equality in employment served by discriminating in opposite ways on the grounds of the ages of leavers and joiners?

Yours faithfully,
STUART WALKER,
3 Jarvis Court,
Station Road,
Billingshurst,
West Sussex.
May 9.

London landings

From Dr Sean McGrail

Sir, Whether London was or was not a trading centre from the fifth to the tenth century AD cannot be decided solely on the evidence of abandoned and silted-up Roman quays (*pace* "Findings", May 9). Boats, and indeed ships, may have been operated from informal landing places on the foreshore, as seems to have been the case generally in Europe, outside the classical world.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN MCGRAIL,
Chief Archaeologist,
Archaeological Research Centre,
National Maritime Museum, SE10.
May 9.

BBC needs and market solutions

From Mr W. Bishop and Dr C. Veljanovski

Sir, Dr Morgan, an adviser to the Director General of the BBC, takes issue (May 9) with the market solution to the allocation of radio frequencies which we advocated in *Choice by Cable*, recently published by the Institute of Economic Affairs. She suggests that the proposal is somewhat fanciful because it ignores two considerations: that radio frequencies are allocated by international agreement and that the decision to use frequencies for public-sector uses is a political assessment that "cannot be left to the market". Both assertions are unpersuasive and sidestep the real issues.

First, it is incorrect to assert that frequency allocation in the UK is solely the province of international negotiation. The Home Office plays an important role in allocating frequencies to users and uses. We recommended radical reform of management of the radio spectrum.

To assess our proposal, the proper comparison is not between political allocation and market allocation in principle, but how they will operate in practice. Dr Morgan discusses neither their relative merits nor the views of the Meritman committee, which has concluded that Home Office procedures have been unsatisfactory.

Second, Dr Morgan asserts that the market cannot value, and be trusted to deal with, the allocation of resources to law and order, the NHS and defence of national security. She says that public services of this kind should receive frequencies free of charge. Carried to its logical extreme, Dr Morgan would find herself advocating the free provision of police cars and ambulances to the public sector and, we suppose, free appropriation of food, fuel (and labour?) by hospitals.

If allocation of frequencies must be a political matter then certainly that of food must be also, since it is essential to life. The plain fact is that in most areas the police, NHS and the BBC have to pay for what they use or else they don't get it.

Yet all this misses the real attraction of the market solution. By pricing frequencies, users, whether public or private, are provided with an incentive to economise, to use scarce frequency space efficiently; an incentive that is absent at present. The current system conceals the social costs of the forgone opportunities that have resulted from mismanagement of the radio spectrum identified by Meritman. The erroneous assumption that inflicts Dr Morgan's criticisms is that frequencies are costless.

Finally it was not our claim that the BBC should be dismantled or that public-service broadcasting had no justification - *pace* Dr Morgan. Mr Davies's analysis was not based on our book. Nor does the proposal for a frequency market or auction obviate the need for the Government to make political choices.

If the Government wants a BBC, then that decision will be reflected in the increased licence fee necessary to purchase the frequencies in competition with others. In this way the Government and the viewer can

assess whether this is the best use of the spectrum, because both will have a measure of the opportunities to society forgone by using the spectrum for BBC transmission rather than the next best alternative use.

Yours faithfully,
C. VELJANOVSKI,
Centre for Socio Legal Studies,
Wolfson College, Oxford,
W. BISHOP,
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, WC2.
May 13.

From Mr Bernard Braden

Sir, When I read "Do we really need the BBC?" by Howard Davies (feature, April 26) I dismissed it as a column filler on a bad day. The fact that readers might take it as a subject for serious debate never occurred to me.

May I suggest Mr Davies might just as well have posed the question: "Do we really need *The Times*?" In spite of the vicissitudes of the past few years it seems we do because we're still here.

You have to have in common with the BBC that, given many faults, you are national institutions, and as such, must be preserved. This is not jingoism, but the answer to a grave threat that has not been fully realised.

The real difference between "narrow-casting" and "broadcasting" is that the latter represents a national forum of opinion and entertainment, while the former proposes fragmentation of viewing, not just parochiality, but in interests and tastes. This would be acceptable if it didn't pose a threat to broadcasting, which it does.

In the United States there are three major networks, all with the same aim... to compete for viewers in numbers, regardless of quality. As such these networks are employers of independent producers who bid against one another for the lowest common denominator.

The only areas in which the American networks function as producers are in news and sport. Their figures are being seriously eroded by cable television, pay TV, and will be further affected by satellite, which has been described by someone as a substitute for thought.

In this country, we have BBC 1 and 2, because if it goes under it will take ITV with it. Changes will be made. Lovable though it was to appeal to minorities those minorities were too small and too aggressive to be anything but a "turn off" for most viewers.

TV-am, in my view, overlooks two crucial factors. One is national radio and the other national daily papers, neither of which is available to the American public.

The single factor that most improved the BBC was the arrival of ITV. It would be inconceivable now to think of either as a monopoly, but together they constitute a national sounding board which it would be madness not to protect.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD BRADEN,
5 Kidderpore Avenue, NW3.
May 16.

Labour's 'typical' voter

From Dr Martin Holmes

Sir, While in agreement with most of Robert Waller's article (May 11) it may also be argued that Labour has already broadened its electoral appeal to include many middle-class voters.

The public sector expansion of the 1960s under Harold Wilson created a middle-class electorate in the universities, polytechnics, the health service and, particularly, local government, who preferred Labour to the other parties. This newly created "intellectual" middle-class electorate has made inroads into the Labour Party itself with regard to

candidate selection and the recent stress on such issues as civil liberties and CND's unilateralist fundamentalism.

Labour's typical voter may still be as Robert Waller implies, a manual worker, but the trend is already established towards the middle-class *Guardian*-reading Thatcher man (or other person) whose ideological socialist commitment is not tempered by the income and affluency that middle-class people enjoy.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN HOLMES,
81 Margaret Hall,
Oxford.
May 11.

Civil Service queries

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your Labour Correspondent reported on May 10 that leaders of the Civil Service unions "are to take the unprecedented step of launching a campaign among their 500,000 members pointing out the dangers of voting Conservative in next month's election."

What is in fact happening, however, is very different: the unions are inviting all four main political parties to answer 10 questions about their policies on key

issues affecting the Civil Service. The sort of questions asked are: "What principles would your party adopt for determining Civil Service pay?" "What is your party's policy on current and future Civil Service staffing levels?"

The answers will be published in a leaflet to members which will include the words: "We are not making a recommendation about how you should vote. But we do think that all our members are entitled to know where the political parties stand on some of the most important issues affecting them."

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARD, General Secretary,
Association of First Division Civil Servants,
17 Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

Parish pump apathy

From Mrs M. Lochner

Sir, May 1, as a member of West Sussex County Council's Planning Committee, make the following points on your report of May 5 and Mrs Ann Howe's letter of May 11 about exploratory oil drilling at Baxters Copse, Graftham.

During the past 10 years we have had many such applications and have become accustomed to the occasional heavy machine crawling about the country lanes in a search.

As the authority concerned with strategic planning, it is our duty to take into consideration the national interest as well as, but not paramount to, the local one. For this reason we need to know where oil may be found - as in other cases such as sand and gravel.

It does not follow that the subsequent planning permission for its extraction would be allowed. This would be most carefully considered in relation to an amenity area which Mrs Howe and I value equally.

County Hall may seem remote to her, but I can assure her that elected members of the council are not. Yours faithfully,
MARY LOCHNER,
Rais Castle,
Hammer,
Mr Haslemere, Surrey.

Signs and portraits?

From the Reverend Dr B. Clark

Sir, With the announcement of the general election for June 9 I turned to my diary, which offers a daily thought, and for June 9 it reminds me of the words of Bismarck: "People never live so much as after a hunt, during a war and before an election."

Yours faithfully,
B. CLARK,
South Street Baptist Church,
Exeter.

From Mr Tom Williamson

Sir, In 1066 the appearance of a comet of unusual brightness heralded the fall of a firm and resolute ruler of England, exulted by a recent victory over an invader.

Comet Iras-Araki-Alcock achieved its greatest brilliance two days after Mrs Thatcher's announcement of the election.

Yours faithfully,
TOM WILLIAMSON,
6 Woburn Court,
Stamford Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.
May 13.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 17: His Excellency Señor Don José Puig de la Bellacasa was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Spain to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Don Luis de la Torre (Minister Counsellor), Captain Don Manuel Gómez Díez-Miranda (Defence and Naval Attaché), Don Ricardo Cortes (Minister), Don Eduardo Aranda (Minister), Don César González Palacios (Minister), Don Alberto Escudero (Counsellor), Lieutenant-Colonel Don Ramón de Mier (Military Attaché) and Lieutenant-Colonel Don Juan del Real (Air Attaché).

Señora de Puig de la Bellacasa had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Antony Acland (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Lewin had an audience of The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand and Mrs Muldoon had the honour of being invited to luncheon with The Queen.

The Queen this afternoon opened the new Headquarters Building of the International Maritime Organization on the Albert Embankment.

Having been received by the Marquess of Lambeth (Counsellor General of the Organization (Mr C. P. Srivastava) and the Permanent Secretary, Department of Trade (Sir Anthony Rastall), Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque to the building and afterwards attended a Reception.

Lady Abel Smith, the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this morning opened the Signature Collection 'Ardians in Make-up' at Christie's, 35, King Street, London, SW1.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips visited Maroon Space and

regiments of The Prince of Wales's Cavalry on Horse Guards Parade on June 8.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will visit the flower festival at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, on June 10.

The Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will witness the Queen's birthday parade on Horse Guards Parade on June 11.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as vicar-general, the Queen's Club, will attend a luncheon and present the awards to winners of the Stella Artois tennis championships at the Queen's Club, London, on June 12.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, will attend the officers' club reception at Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, on June 13.

The Duke of Gloucester, on behalf of the National Agricultural Centre Housing Association, will open the court and parade and old peoples' bungalows at Willow Court, Station Road, Haddenham, Shropshire, on June 13. He will also visit Hardwick stables rural industrial unit.

The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Gloucestershire Regiment, accompanied by the Duchess will take the salute at the Beating Retreat by massed bands of the

regiments of The Prince of Wales's Cavalry on Horse Guards Parade on June 8.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will visit the flower festival at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, on June 10.

The Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will witness the Queen's birthday parade on Horse Guards Parade on June 11.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as vicar-general, the Queen's Club, will attend a luncheon and present the awards to winners of the Stella Artois tennis championships at the Queen's Club, London, on June 12.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, will attend the officers' club reception at Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, on June 13.

The Duke of Gloucester, on behalf of the National Agricultural Centre Housing Association, will open the court and parade and old peoples' bungalows at Willow Court, Station Road, Haddenham, Shropshire, on June 13. He will also visit Hardwick stables rural industrial unit.

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Defence Systems Ltd at Stanmore, Middlesex.

Having been received by the Chairman (General Sir Harry Tuzo), Her Royal Highness was entertained at luncheon and afterwards toured the building.

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

Lady Abel Smith has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 17: The Prince and Princess of Wales this morning at Kensington Palace received the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Mrs Muldoon.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, this evening opened an exhibition 'The Renaissance at Sutton Place' at Sutton Place, Guildford, Surrey.

The Hon Edward Adams and Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 17: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, President of The Frances Mary Buss Foundation, this afternoon visited the North London Collegiate School, Edgware and opened the McLaughlin Theatre.

Miss Jane Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Royal Air Force Station, Croydon.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 17: The Duke of Kent, President of the RAF Benevolent Fund, this morning took the Chair of State at the annual meeting of the fund at Portland Place, London, W1.

His Royal Highness, President of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this afternoon attended the Annual Meeting and presented the Awards at the Royal Festival Hall.

Captain John Stewart was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales has succeeded Princess Alexandra as patron of the British Red Cross Society's youth and junior volunteers.

Pope John Paul II is 63 today.

A requiem Mass for Mr James Dewar will take place at 10.30 am on Friday, May 20, 1983, at St Andrew's Church, Ely Place, London, EC1.

A memorial tribute to Sir Clifford Curzon will take place today at 11 at the Church of St Sepulchre without Newgate, Holborn Viaduct.

Mr S. B. G. Howard and Mrs Howard, Countess Compton, this morning announced the engagement of their son, Mr George Howard, to the late Lady Cecilia Howard, of Castle Howard, York, and Annette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Smallwood, of Storrington, Sussex.

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Four Trinity House boatmen from Harwich, Essex, who were presented yesterday with bronze medals for helping to save 48 people from the ferry, European Gateway, which capsized last December. From left: Kenneth Lee, Barry Warner, Michael Wright and Thomas Wakelin (Photograph: Suresh Khadia).

RNLI calls for Penlee 'facts'

The Duke of Atholl, chairman of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, yesterday spoke of the need to "establish the facts" surrounding the Penlee lifeboat disaster. It was vital to maintain a "unity of purpose" between all arms of the search-and-rescue network, he said.

He was speaking at the institution's annual meeting in London, where he announced that lifeboats put to sea a record 3,304 times last year and saved 1,281 lives, a rise of 209 on 1981.

The report of the 29-day public inquiry into the loss of the Penlee lifeboat, Solomon Browne, and the coater, Union Star, will be made public in Penzance today, 17 months after the tragedy claimed

16 lives during a storm off the Cornish coast.

It has been compiled by Mr Richard Stone, QC, wreck commissioner and chairman of the inquiry, and three assessors, who listened to more than a million words of evidence.

The duke said it would be wrong to comment in detail while the evidence was being considered. But the RNLI committee of management had thought carefully about the inquiry and its implications.

"The earnest desire to establish the facts surrounding the loss of the lifeboat and her crew and to consider recommendations to try to avoid such tragedies in the future must be shared by all concerned," he said.

"It is also well to remember the duty of

those which does, and which must, exist between all arms of the search-and-rescue network."

After concern was expressed over the Penlee disaster fund set up by the local council, the RNLI has incorporated in its revised disaster procedures guidelines issued by the Attorney General.

The duke praised lifeboat crew, saying: "It is not enough just to be prepared to face storms and the awesome majesty of the sea. Great skill is needed to handle the lifeboats and great experience is needed to read the seas and to know how to go about the job at hand."

He said the two new lifeboat designs, the Brede and the Tyne, both with self-righting capabilities, had proved to be excellent.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. B. G. Howard and Mrs Howard, Countess Compton, this morning announced the engagement of their son, Mr George Howard, to the late Lady Cecilia Howard, of Castle Howard, York, and Annette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Smallwood, of Storrington, Sussex.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
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London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-497 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 675.8 up 4.5
 FT 100 Index: 60.59, down 0.02
 Hang Seng: 16,902
 Tokyo Nikkei: 16,902
 8572.23, down 19.56
 Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 930.70, down 12.10
 New York Dow Jones Average (midday): 1,203.08, up 0.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5570, down 15 pts
 DM 2.4810, down 0.15
 DM 3.8225, down 0.75
 FR 11.51, down 0.4
 Yen 363, down 0.75
 Dollar Index: 122.4, up 0.1
 DM 2.4810, down 15 pts
 Gold \$443.50, up \$6.75
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Gold \$440.75
 Sterling \$1.5545

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Base rate 10
 3 month interbank 10 1/4 = 10 1/4
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 9 1/8 = 9 1/8
 3 month DM 5 1/4 = 5 1/4
 3 month FR 13 1/4 = 13 1/4
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme
 Average reference rate for interest period April 6 to May 3, 1983 inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Regional Prop. 235p, up 43p
Coltine K. 20p, up 3p
Gleaves 74p, up 2p
Tidings 23p, up 2p
Atlantic 58p, up 8p
IMI 80.5p, up 5p
Steep 431p, down 23p
Atlantic Res 65p, down 15p
Hambro (EC) 28, down 21
Norfolk C. 30p, down 3p
Poly Pack 218, down 1.50
Anvil 40p, down 3p

TODAY

Interline Canvermoor, Irish Distillers Group, Mettoy, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, NSS Newsagents, Redfern National Glass.
Finance Advance Services, Ambrose Investment Trust, British-Bornet Petroleum Syndicate, Chamberlain and Hill, Hartwells Group, Usher Walker.
Economic statistics: Indices of average earnings (March); indices of basic rates of wages (April).

IBA relaxes City ad rules

A relaxation of the rules governing financial advertising on television was announced yesterday. The amendments to the Independent Broadcasting Authority's Code of Advertising Standards include greater freedom for companies to promote their products and services in corporate advertising. The results of companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and advertising of savings facilities that are guaranteed by EEC governments, in currencies other than sterling.

RECOVERY SIGNS: There are signs of economic recovery in manufacturing and service industries in London and the South-east, according to the latest trends survey from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Details, page 21

BOOST FOR BR: British Rail's Property Board made a £79m cash contribution to the railways, Sir Robert Lawrence, the board's chairman, said yesterday. He said the board, which had financial targets during 1982, had exceeded them.

DEBENTURE STOCK: Watney Mann and Truman Holdings, a subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan, has placed £50m of redeemable debenture stock, 2008, payable £25 per £100 nominal by May 24 and the balance by September 20. The issue yield will be at a margin of 1.25 per cent above the gross redemption yield on 13 1/2 per cent Treasury stock, 2004-06 at 3 pm yesterday as determined by S. G. Warburg.

PLANT-HIRE RIGHTS: Hewden-Stuart, the plant-hire company, plans to raise about £8.6m, after expenses, by a rights issue at par of up to £8.6m 10 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 2003-08. Terms: £1 of stock for every 10 ordinary shares. The conversion terms are equivalent to a conversion price of about 35.1p per ordinary share.

WALL STREET

Shares turn mixed

New York (AP-Dow Jones)—Stocks turned mixed again yesterday after making a small gain throughout most of the morning.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell about 11 points, while advancing issues were nearly four-to-three ahead of declines. Trading was moderate.

General Electric fell 1 to 108 1/2. International Business Machines fell 1 1/2 to 114 1/2. General Motors fell 1/2 to 69 1/2. Eastman Kodak was unchanged at 74 1/2. Howell was down 1 1/2 to 120 1/2. American Express fell 1/2 to 66 1/2.

Texas at 35 1/2 was up 1/2. Monsanto at 82 1/2 was up 1/2. Warner Lambert at 31 1/2 was up 1/2. Standard Oil of Ohio at 48 1/2 was down 1/2. PPG Industries at 63 1/2 was down 1/2. AMR at 26 1/2 was down 1/2. Union Pacific at 35 1/2 was up 1/2. Polaroid at 31 1/2 was up 1/2. Lockheed at 115 1/2 was up 1/2. J. C. Penney at 58 1/2 was down 1/2.

Mr Robert Mintz, research vice-president at Phillips Appel and Walden said: "A lot of nervous investors are confused because the market had come this far without a major correction. In this atmosphere people look for an excuse for a correction as shown by Monday's drop."

There was "undue concern", Mr Mintz said, over interest rates and the possible resurgence of inflation.

Overseas problems for Lloyds

Lloyds Bank International demonstrated clearly yesterday that international debt problems are far from over. It revealed that provisions for bad and doubtful debts in its interim results had doubled to £70.6m from the same period last year. But pretax profits rose from £57.4m to £70.5m.

Worries about debt difficulties will not be eased by reports yesterday that the Bank for International Settlements has decided to stop making bridging loans. The BIS stressed, however, that the terms of existing loans may be open to discussion.

The BIS policy narrows the choices open to banks trying to "distill" the "dead" debts of insolvent credit institutions. Bankers are meeting in New York and Señor Carlos Lago, the director of Brazil's central bank, is expected in both New York and Washington, where he will meet International Monetary Fund officials, this week.

In London there are hopes that a compromise can be reached between the banks themselves and between the banks and Nigeria over refinancing up to \$2,000m of the country's short-term trade credits.

Mr Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji, Nigeria's chief negotiator, said yesterday that talks on Monday had been constructive. So far about half the 23 banks involved in the talks have accepted the plan.

Lloyds Bank International, which is wholly-owned by Lloyds Bank, is a big lender to Latin America, which includes some of the world's biggest debtor countries. Provisions for the six months to the end of September were £31.3m. But the latest provisions for the half year to March 31 have been more than offset by rising profits.

The bank has benefited from falling interest rates which reduced its cost of funds while borrowers from the bank were still paying higher rates. So interest income rose £9.5m, compared with £9.7m in the preceding half, but interest charges fell by £42.9m to £80.2m.

This generated the higher profit and has enabled the bank to pay its parent a dividend of £20m after declaring no dividend at all last year.

John Waddington, best known as a manufacturer of Monopoly, Cluedo and other games, yesterday attracted a takeover bid from another Leeds-based company, Norton & Wright. At last night's closing Norton price, the bid was worth around £10.5m.

Norton & Wright, which is being renamed Norton Oper, has been a big producer of lottery tickets but, since a management shake-up and return to profits, has been growing through acquisition. It has also been moving into the games sector. It has spent around £1m in half a dozen acquisitions for cash.

Norton, which in turnover and assets is smaller than Waddington, is offering eight Norton shares for every five of Waddington. Samuel Montagu is underwriting the share issue with a cash alternative if the offer becomes unconditional, clearly backing what it believes

Offer 'still totally unacceptable', says Sir Patrick Meaney

BTR raises record takeover bid for Thomas Tilling to £664m

By Our Financial Staff

BTR yesterday increased its bid for Thomas Tilling to £664m, making Britain's biggest takeover bid still bigger.

Sir David Nicholson, BTR chairman, emphasized that this was the company's final offer. But Sir Patrick Meaney, Thomas Tilling managing director, said that he and his fellow directors regarded the bid as "still totally unacceptable".

The increased offer was announced early yesterday morning and BTR's advisers Morgan Grenfell took the opportunity of staging a "dawn raid" for Tilling shares in the market at the new offer price.

It is believed that they picked up about 8 per cent, or over 24 million shares, bringing the BTR camp's total stake in Tilling to about 22 per cent. To do so they spent £2.5m.

The terms of the new offer are 11 BTR shares for every 20 Tilling shares, valuing Tilling at about £228p. This slipped to 226p with BTR shares falling

several pence when the offer was announced.

But more important in terms of the final outcome, BTR has raised its cash alternative from 185p a share to 225p a share. In uncertain stock market conditions in the run-up to the election, this is more likely to impress both institutional and small shareholders.

BTR's final offer - to which it is committed under the rules of the Takeover Panel unless a third party intervenes - has just three weeks to run. If it does not succeed in that time it will be allowed to lapse.

And Tilling, backed by advisers S. G. Warburg has only that amount of time to mount a defence against what the City regarded as a realistic offer.

BTR's bid has already received clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Tilling is considering having off some of its component companies as part of its defence.

Recovery falters as output falls 1pc

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The pace of industrial recovery faltered in March according to the last set of figures to be published before the general election, disappointing government hopes that they would demonstrate convincingly that the economic upswing was well underway.

The output of British industry as a whole fell 0.9 per cent in March after a 1 per cent jump in February mainly due to lower gas, electricity and oil production as the weather returned to normal after the February cold spell.

Manufacturing production slipped by 0.2 per cent in March after a 1.4 per cent drop the previous month from high January levels.

Monthly figures are, however, notoriously erratic. Figures for the latest three months, a better guide to the underlying trend, show total output 1.5 per cent up on the final quarter of last year and 2 per cent higher than the year before.

The Central Statistical Office said yesterday that, allowing for changes in stocks, industrial output was now 3.5 per cent above the trough of the recession in spring 1981. But practically the whole of this improvement comes from the sharp rise in North Sea oil and gas extraction.

Excluding the North Sea sector, industrial output rose by 1.5 per cent between the latest three-month periods, but is only 0.5 per cent up on its level of a year ago.

For manufacturing the picture is more dismal. Despite a 1.5 per cent rise in the most recent quarter, British factories are producing 0.5 per cent less than they were at the same time last year.

The March figures brought sharply differing reactions from the two sides of industry. The Confederation of British Industry - whose recent company surveys have revealed growing optimism on future production - said the trend for manufacturing industry was still upwards, "very much in line with the CBI forecasts".

But Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the figures "gave the lie to all the exaggerated and over-optimistic claims about an industrial and economic recovery".

More reassurances, including the Treasury, are expecting industrial activity to go on rising, albeit at a modest pace, over the coming months.

But on present trends it will take several years to regain the 11.6 per cent loss of total production, and the 18.5 per cent slump in manufacturing output, suffered since the Government took office.

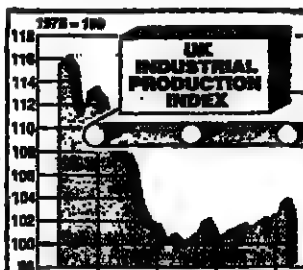
Wearwell profits soar 44pc

By Jeremy Warner

Wearwell, one of the three publicly quoted companies run by Mr Asil Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, whose shares crashed in March, yesterday reported a 44 per cent rise in half year pretax profits.

The company, the only one in the Nadir stable that can claim to have stuck to the clothing business, announced that profits in the six months to March 3 rose to £2.5m.

The figures were accompanied by a statement saying the company, which already has production facilities in the Turkish section of Cyprus, is planning new capacity in mainland Turkey.



Industrial Production Index (1978=100)

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982

100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

Manxmen aim for confidence

By David Young

The Isle of Man government has announced its satisfaction with a strengthened Treasury team and that it is to introduce legislation to control its financial institutions.

Dr Edgar Mann, the chairman of the Isle of Man Finance Board, said in his annual Budget speech yesterday that there had been a surge of new funds to the island's banks, with deposits rising by 34.5 per cent during the past year.

The Manx government will move towards the introduction of a freerport area and the introduction of an Exempt Companies Bill to cover offshore business carried out on the island. The possibility of introducing legislation to cover confidentiality in financial transactions is being studied, Dr Mann said.

Stung by the Bank of England's report into the collapse of the island's Savings and Investment Bank, the Manx Government has spent the past year restoring confidence in the island's financial reputation, he added.

The Manx Government is also considering the setting-up of a Man Securities Market as a stimulus to the development of the island's economy.

However, the repercussions of the collapse of the SIB are still being felt on the island and a meeting of the depositors of the ill-fated bank is due to be held before the end of the month, when calls for a wind-fall profit tax on the island's other banks to cover the SIB debts will be renewed.

Mersey Docks back in black

By Jonathan Davis

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, which was given £35.5m of Government grants last year to pay for the redundancy of half its workforce, has finally started to trade in the black again after four years of losses.

Announcing a 1982 trading loss of £9.5m, Sir John Page, the chairman, said the company - which has been badly hit by the decline of Liverpool as a port - made a trading profit in the first quarter of this year. The situation, however, remained "precarious".

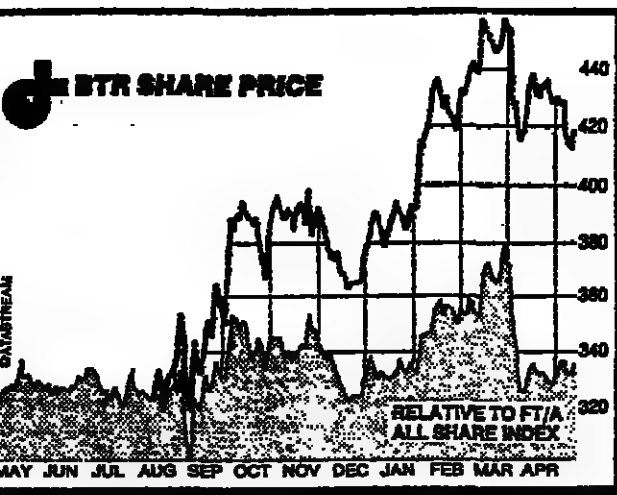
Some 1800 dockers and other employees, took voluntary redundancy last year, reducing the workforce to 1,700. The severance costs of £35.5m, equivalent to more than 60 per cent of the company's annual revenue, were met by repayable Government grants.

The Government also wrote off £30m in outstanding debts.

Waddington's packaging would be a departure for Norton, but Mr Hanwell - an accountant who has himself had packaging company experience - said: "There are strengths in the Waddington business and we want to exploit them by motivating the enormous bank of skills that exist at Waddington."

Some factory rationalization is possible but no big effect on either company's workforce is foreseen.

For Waddington, the Norton announcement cleared up the identity of the mystery bidder for its shares. Norton had acquired 3.1 per cent of Waddington shares at prices from 94p to 96p.



BTR SHARE PRICE

MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR

RELATIVE TO FT 100 ALL SHARE INDEX

Last night, Sir Patrick said that he did not rule out floating off companies in North America, and that Goldman Sachs, the US banking house, was examining various possibilities.

With little chance of any counterbid from Britain, both sides in this increasingly acrimonious battle are casting nervous eyes across the Atlantic.

A Morgan Grenfell spokesman confirmed yesterday that it had enlisted the aid of Morgan Stanley in New York to assess the chances of a possible US intervention.

£4.5m cash call by Smith Brothers

By Michael Clark

The recent boom in the stock market has left Smith Bros, the smaller of the two publicly quoted jobbers, with record profits but a little short of cash. As a result, the group plans to raise £4.5m, virtually doubling its capital base.

Shareholders are being asked to take up an extra 3.4 million shares on the basis of two new shares for every five held at 50p to raise £1.6m. Smith will be placing 750,000 shares at 50p and £2.5m of 11 per cent convertible subordinated capital with Finance for Industry.

If FFI decides to exercise its full conversion rights, it will hold 18.4 per cent of Smith's enlarged equity.

Mr Tony Lewis, chairman of Smith Bros, who spent several months putting the deal together, said: "Our whole business has got bigger with the higher level of market turnover. We want to be part of the real action."

News of the rights issue caught the rest of the market on the hop, the forecast of pretax profits of £3.3m against a loss last year of £28.0m was mainly responsible for shares closing unchanged at 49p. This value the group on the enlarged capital at £5.35m.

The New York venture is expected to appear on the books valued at around \$4m (2.5).

Mr Lewis denied suggestions that the tie up with FFI had been planned as a defensive move after recent bid speculation.

General Accident, Britain's biggest motor insurer, has made a substantial recovery from last year's disastrous first quarter loss of £11.4m, but prospects in Britain remain grim with only weak recovery in the United States.

Much of the first quarter turnaround to profits of £5.8m is attributable to the absence of severe weather claims. But drivers are travelling further on relatively cheap petrol with the result that motor insurance claims have risen significantly. Therefore, rate rises are certain later this year.

United Kingdom commercial business remains competitive, though there are some signs of improvement.

The worldwide underwriting loss has been reduced from £56.2m to £40m and should be down further by the year end. The underwriting loss in Britain was reduced from £27.7m to £19.3m.

Investment income has declined and cash flow has been hit by heavy claims payments

General Accident
 First quarter to 31.3.83
 Pretax profit £9.9m (Loss £11.4m)
 Underwriting loss £40m (£56.2m)
 Written premiums £342.1m (£298.9m)
 Share price 423p, unchanged.

City Comment

P & O in Trafalgar's sights

If Trafalgar House is not planning to bid for P & O next week then it is going to disappoint a lot of people in the stock market.

Yesterday the construction to shipping group was said to be in the market again for P & O shares, in an attempt to build up a strategic stake from which to launch an offer. So far, however it has not confirmed this and has given no indication that its holding is approaching 5 per cent.

Not surprisingly though, after the report of Trafalgar's interest in The Times yesterday, P & O shares were a firm market, rising a further 10p to 164p. If, as expected, Trafalgar's opening shot is around 200p then the value of the offer for P & O would be just short of £300m.

Trafalgar has made no secret recently of wanting to lighten its interest in property - not least because the London office market is not what it was. Buildings which five years ago would have been snapped up before the "To Let" signs appeared, are today staying empty, a drag on the market and on profits.

Linking with P & O would also make considerable commercial sense, as the two groups have much in common, although the latter might not be expected to see it that way. But P & O is not the force it was, in spite of valiant efforts to recover in recent years and it might find it as hard as Thomas Tilling to fight off a determined predator with a good track record.

The unions, too, might resist as much as P & O, because Trafalgar has slashed the size of its Cunard fleet in the last two years, in an effort to cope with the recession.

In normal times such a bid might seem a natural for the Monopolies Commission to investigate, but with election fever in Whitehall these are not normal times.

So the strategists at Trafalgar probably feel that if they are going to bid - and they must be tempted - then they will never get a better chance than now. Still in all, it promises to be an interesting 10 days.

Taylor Woodrow looks to the future with confidence

Mr. Dick Puttick, Chairman, reports

Trading conditions throughout the year were not easy, intense competition being experienced for new work as it became available. However, despite these conditions, which have been with us for some years now, we increased our profit for the twenty-second successive year. In the light of present trading conditions I believe that once again the results are not unsatisfactory. We look to the future with confidence and are well equipped to meet the challenges that lie ahead as recovery comes from the present recession in our industry.

The board has great belief in free enterprise for the creation of wealth and is an active supporter of organisations concerned with these principles. With a General Election not far away we shall apply our efforts towards ensuring the re-election to government of the Conservatives whom we see as the only party dedicated to the support of free enterprise, industry and commerce and the encouragement of private initiative in business.

Despite the difficult economic circumstances of the past few years we have maintained our efforts through the principles of free enterprise to create wealth and to play our part in helping the country to improve the quality of life here and overseas. We have built hospitals, homes, factories, offices, irrigation schemes for food production and most forms of energy generation. We have earned valuable foreign currency from our activities throughout the world and we have re-invested profits in research to innovate and improve techniques so that we can continue this vital role.

Our teams of men and women throughout the world, whom we thank, remain in good heart and are working well, meeting the challenges of these somewhat difficult times.

The properties of the group were independently valued at the end of 1982 at £215 million, of which £173 million is in investment properties. After deduction of minority interests the surplus on valuation amounting to £39 million has been credited to capital reserves.

The group continued to have a positive cash flow in 1982 of nearly £4 million and we ended the year with liquid funds standing at £58 million. Shareholders' funds

The year in brief

1982 1981

Turnover £605m £575m

Profit before tax £28.53m £24.87m

Profit available to Taylor Woodrow plc £17.51m £20.64m

Earnings per share before extraordinary items 54.7p 49.7p

Fully diluted 53.4p 48.3p

Net dividends per share 19.5p 16.3p

Amos Hinton down a fifth

By Victor Felstead

Amos Hinton & Sons
Year to 5.3.83.
Pretax profit, £2m (£2.49m).
Stated earnings, 31.85p (40.53p).
Turnover, £112.87m (£101.3m).
Net dividend, 8.0p (8.0p).

In spite of an 11 per cent expansion in sales to £112.87m, pretax profits of Amos Hinton & Sons, the supermarket and off-licence group, fell by almost a fifth to £2m in the year to March 5, 1983.

Profits were arrived at after heavier depreciation of £1.39m, against £1.09m, and an interest charge of £2,000, compared with the previous year's credit of £303,000.

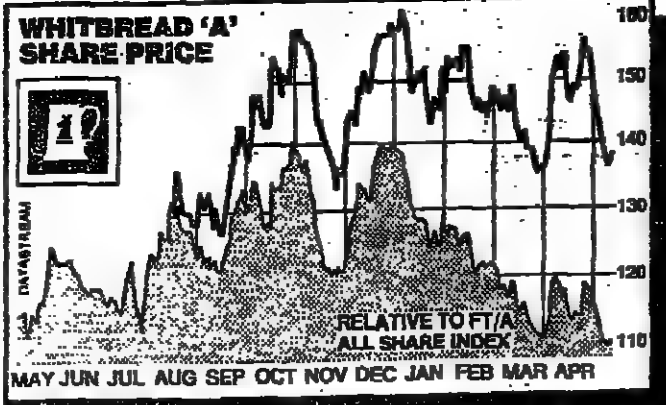
The tax charge is almost unchanged at £263,000 (£266,000), and there is an extraordinary debit of £244,000, against a credit of £32,000 last time.

The results is that earnings per share have slumped from 40.53p to 31.85p. However, net assets per share are up from 196p to 215p. Shareholders collect an unchanged total dividend of 11.42p gross a share.

Executives Clothes

In Investors' Notebook (January 8) we said that among others Executives was under an obligation to hold an extraordinary general meeting under the 1980 Companies Act, section 34. It has been pointed out to us that the figures we quoted were group figures and do not apply to Executives Clothes plc, which is not therefore obliged to hold an e.g.m. We apologise for this mistake.

City frowns on Whitbread's £81m



Whitbread managed to finish the year with its pretax profits 10.5 per cent ahead at £81m. This was despite a further 3 per cent fall in beer volume and the end of the cash flow from the Chiswell Street property development which, for years limited interest payments.

The market nevertheless took a dim view of the figures and marked down the shares, which since the half-year stage have underperformed both the FT Index and the sector, by a further 4p to 134p.

Though the outlook for the sector is by no means buoyant, with another summer of poor weather widely expected, the underperformance is probably unwarranted. Grand Metropolitan, for instance, showed no increase in the trading profits of its brewing division Watney Mann in the half year to last March.

Whitbread has continued to benefit from its cost-cutting programme and if the company is to be believed, that impact will be carried over into 1983 when a 20 per cent increase in internal capital spending is planned. Julius Wile, the recent American acquisition, made a "small contribution" after financing costs and is expected to do better this year.

The Beefeater chain of restaurants - there are 137 after 40 openings last year - is said to have chipped in a "material" amount for the first time. As the proportion of Beefeater revenue absorbed by pre-opening expenses declines, profits will come through more strongly.

The worry is that Whitbread's determination to claw back the market share it lost last year will eat deep into margins. Whitbread delayed making price increases for longer than other brewers and when they did come through in September, they were smaller.

According to Whitbread, which is already benefiting from the repumption of growth in the larger market, it has a higher than average exposure, this is having the required effect with volume slightly ahead of the industry so far this year.

Assuming the impact of cost-cutting is still coming through, the effect of margins should not be too severe.

Tilling's shares are firm at 230p because BTR's advisers, Morgan Grenfell, are in the market for as many shares as they can get at 229.5p. The extra over the cash alternative represents the dividend which is still included in the Tilling shares.

The gambling element comes in because Tilling has a higher-than-average proportion of small shareholders, and three weeks is a short time to overcome both opposition and apathy.

Nevertheless, most of the 60 per cent majority of shares held by institutions is likely to go BTR's way - either through the market, or in acceptance of this final offer, depending on whether they want cash or shares.

The odds are now on a BTR win. The best investment advice is to sell Tilling in the market, unless tax considerations are in favour of accepting paper. Certainly, if the bid fails, Tilling shares will fall sharply.

Juliana's

There is no company quoted on the stock market comparable to Juliana's, which helps to explain why Morgan Grenfell has chosen the tender method of offering 1.35 million of its shares, or 25 per cent of the total, for sale to the public. According to Grenfell, the floor on which to price the issue was easy to establish but the ceiling was almost impossible.

Juliana's is "no ordinary experience" according to the anonymous mid-Atlantic agent that accompanies its promotional video. It is a company that provides a range of discotheque entertainment services to 112 night clubs and hotels, and that for the Stock Exchange where its shares will start trading for the first time on June 1, makes it a "positively unique experience."

The floor price (no pun intended) in this case is a minimum tender of 225p per share. That puts the shares on 15.7 times prospective 1983 earnings after an actual tax charge plus prospective yield of 3.2 per cent - this for a company with minimal asset backing. In turn, that means a £12.4m capitalization and proof that discs are not cheap.

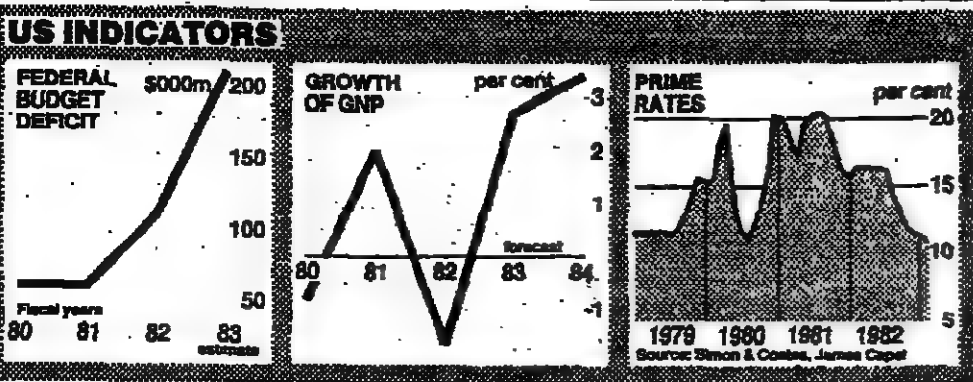
There will undoubtedly be something for the stage but it must be remembered that discs can be compared with other fashion stocks, which leaves longer term questions marks over the rating.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES			
Prices in pounds per metric ton				Settle in pounds per metric ton			
Silver in prices per tray ounce				Settle in pounds per metric ton			
Yield's				Yield's			
Premium				Premium			
High grade copper				High grade copper			
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Frances Williams explains why sluggish growth is good news

Punishing interest rates keep US recovery smouldering



'A rise in American interest rates could prove disastrous for growth in the Third World with dismal repercussions in the West'

economy in driving or depressing international recovery.

Indeed, the potential impact of developing countries is far greater. In the 1970's their economies grew nearly twice as fast as the 3 per cent a year registered by the US. That is likely to be repeated if world recovery takes hold. The economic troubles of the Third World will this year cost the US itself perhaps 1 per cent growth, according to official estimates.

The most dynamic of the developing countries are now heavily, sometimes dangerously, in debt: the total is more than \$700,000m. Much of this is denominated and serviced in dollars.

Each 1 per cent drop in US interest rates is reckoned to wipe \$4,000m off annual debt-servicing costs, while a fall in the dollar would make repayments easier to meet from export earnings, which are often in non-dollar currencies.

It would also ease the pressure for protectionism in the US which threatens to cut off vital export markets for many third world countries. Reduction in the debt servicing burden is crucial if debtor countries are to expand their imports from the rich countries and renew the rapid economic growth which austerities measures, forced on them by world recession and the debt crisis, have brought abruptly to a halt.

Any rise in American interest rates could prove disastrous for growth in the Third World, with dismal repercussions in the West.

In the short term, then, while the American budget deficit problem remains unresolved, the world as well as US has an interest in ensuring that the smouldering American recovery does not catch fire.

In the longer term, as western leaders meeting shortly in Williamsburg will impress forcibly upon President Reagan, failure to put the deficit on a creditably declining path will shipwreck any recovery, modest or otherwise, in the US and the rest of the world.

Spark of life from a smaller industry

While British industry has been demoralised in the last few years the lack of Government support for its endeavours by way of cuts in its costs, many companies can point to positive action by Whitehall to save them from the scrap heap or to help them fend off foreign competition.

The big headline bitters like the British Steel Corporation and BL are, quite rightly, of public concern because of the hefty financial props jammed in place by successive governments.

The industrial community rarely has the opportunity to hear in detail of the smaller, less glamorous attempts being made to prevent further erosion of the manufacturing base. It is rare indeed for an industrialist to sing the praises of the civil servants, more often they prefer to take the money and keep their mouths shut.

A refreshing exception is the American-owned Champion Sparking Plug Company, now based at Lupton on the Wirral in badly depressed Merseyside. It has recently embarked on an investment programme costing £6m, of which £1m has been donated by the Department of Industry in various forms of assistance, including regional development grants and Industry Act selective financial assistance.

Champion's decision was made only after the DoI stamped up the cash. According to Mr David Wilkie, the United Kingdom managing director, it is "truly an example of a development that would not have proceeded without government financial assistance."

Mr Wilkie remembers an entirely reversed situation in 1977 when Champion was keen to site its new windscreen wiper blade manufacturing facility in Britain. "At that time the DoI did nothing to help us and the result was that we lost the factory to Belgium," he said.

This time, the American parent was understandably reticent to invest in a country where it had previously been snubbed. But again, according to Mr Wilkie, the department pulled out the stops, visited the Americans to convince them that the Wirral was a good base for their European activities and in general joined forces with the United Kingdom management to promote the development.

While the investment may have created only a couple of hundred jobs in the longer term, Champion has now made Britain self-sufficient in sparking plugs - no mean feat at a time of appalling depression in motor components - has safeguarded more than 1,000

jobs and completed a successful import substitution job.

Champion UK is now building up to a production rate of 1 million ceramic insulators a day and assembling 240,000 plugs a day. It exports insulators to Belgium. This, combined with an enviable industrial relations record and Mr Wilkie's tough but fair management, clearly fanned the department's desire to back a winner.

It was also sufficient to persuade Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, to visit the Lupton factory recently and lay one of the bricks in the new kiln that he and the taxpayers have helped to provide.



Patrick Jenkin: backing winners

The Lupton investment shows what can be done when local management is convinced of the practicality of a scheme and can convey that enthusiasm to Whitehall. It is also a welcome example of investment in the North after closure in the prosperous South-east (Champion closed its plant at Feltham in Middlesex) rather than vice versa.

The Champion experience needs to be fully documented, like many others, without giving away business secrets, if only to demonstrate to the mass of ignorant small businesses what is available from the state, and how to go about getting it.

The department, under its self-created cloak of "commercial confidentiality", sadly is not prepared to discuss individual cases. Open industry as well as open government is sorely needed.

Since May, 1979, when the present Government came to power, £197m has been dispersed under Section 7 of what is now called the Industrial Development Act, and £1,964m in regional development grants. We know the regions and the industries that have mopped up the money, but we do not know the individual recipients. They should be encouraged to tell.

Edward Townsend

General Accident

THREE-MONTHS' RESULTS

Interim Statement

The results for the three months ended 31st March, 1983, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1982, which are restated at 31st December, 1982, rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1982.

It must be emphasised that the results for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	3 months to 31.3.83 Estimate £ millions	3 months to 31.3.82 Estimate £ millions	Actual Year 1982 £ millions
Net written premiums - General Business	342.1	298.9	1,233.0
Investment Income	48.2	44.1	195.5
Underwriting Result - General Business	(40.0)	(56.2)	(153.8)
Long Term Insurance Profits	1.1	1.1	4.5
Loan Interest	9.3	(11.0)	46.2
	0.4	0.4	1.7
Profit/(Loss) before Tax and Minority Interests	8.9	(11.4)	44.5
Taxation	(3.5)	(10.0)	(9.1)
Minority Interests and Preference Dividend	0.5	0.2	1.3
Net Profit/(Loss) attributable to Shareholders	11.9	(1.0)	52.3
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.48	\$1.62	\$1.62
Canada	\$1.83	\$1.99	\$1.99

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 14.5% and 9.3% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations the increases were 9.7% and 4.5% respectively.

In the United Kingdom, net written premiums were £125.3m (1982 £113.4m) and there was an underwriting loss of £19.3m (1982 £27.7m). Weather losses were much less than in the comparable quarter last year. This benefit was mainly reflected in the Homeowners and Commercial Property accounts which nonetheless reported underwriting losses of £3.7m (1982 £10.2m loss) and £5.4m (1982 £9.0m loss) respectively. The Motor account produced a loss of £8.1m (1982 £7.2m loss) reflecting the continuing high incidence of claims. Experience in the Liability classes was also substantially adverse.

In the United States, net written premiums were \$193.3m (1982 \$181.3m) and the operating ratio was 109.70% compared with 111.04% for the same period last year. This marginal improvement which largely stems from a comparatively better weather experience, was reflected in all major lines. On the United Kingdom accounting basis, the underwriting loss was £13.5m (1982 £12.7m loss).

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £7.2m (1982 £15.8m loss). The substantial part of this improvement arose in Canada where there was a modest profit after a loss of £5.4m a year ago. Despite an improved result from France, E.E.C. territories deteriorated £1.1m to a loss of £5.2m due principally to a very adverse experience in Ireland. Australia maintained last year's underwriting loss at £2.6m after claims from bush fires amounting to £2.8m.

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc.
World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.

Recovery signs in South-east

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

There are signs of recovery in manufacturing and the service industries in London and the South-east, according to a survey by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. But the report says: "It would be rash to conclude that this amounts to a genuine and sustained economic recovery."

In the past four months there have been improvements in domestic and export orders, in production levels and in investment intentions, it says.

Nevertheless, unemployment seems set to increase. Output prices are also rising among large companies, which appear to be improving their profit margins.

The survey appears to show that the setback late last year to the recovery which started in December 1981 was only

temporary. Domestic orders, for instance, are now slightly above the December 1981 level.

But the benefit so far has gone to large and small companies, not to medium-sized ones. Only mechanical engineering among sectors has not reported distinct improvements.

About 42 per cent of companies report domestic order increases compared with 37 per cent at the beginning of the year. On export orders, 31 per cent of companies reported improvements compared with 21.4 per cent in the previous survey.

Production is also up. About 37 per cent of companies reported increased levels with 18 per cent showing a fall. Investment plans generally are on the upturn, with 30.5 per

cent of companies intending to increase spending, an increase of 7 per cent in the past four months.

Among sectors, production levels have shown large increases in the chemical industry, electrical engineering and rubber and plastics, with little change in mechanical engineering.

Only skilled workers have benefited from the production increases with additional overtime reported and a significant number of employers saying they intend to recruit.

LCCI Business Survey March 1983: Economic Research Unit, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB or telephone 01-248 4444 on varying payment details.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr John S. Raitt has become managing director of Tricontrol Oil Corporation.

Mr T R Hill has been elected president of the British Scrap Federation.

Mr R R Amos will retire as deputy chief general manager of Lloyds Bank on July 31. Mr F W Crawley will be returning as deputy chief general manager on August 1, having completed a secondment as vice-chairman and chief executive officer of Lloyds Bank California.

Mr Richard Price has been appointed director of social affairs at the Confederation of British Industry. He succeeds Mr Richard Worsley, who has taken up an appointment as corporate employee relations manager with British Aerospace. Miss Sonia Elkin becomes director of regions. She was director for smaller firms. The new director for smaller firms is Mr Martin Merton, who was director of social affairs (administration).

Mr John Griffiths has been made a director of Samuel Montagu International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Samuel Montagu & Co. Mr Griffiths will be taking up responsibilities as Samuel Montagu's representative in San Francisco in July.

Mr Alan V Dodman has been appointed managing director of Readicut International, and Mr Clive Shaw has joined the board.

Mr Robert Mann has been appointed managing director of Thirty-Nine Leasing Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Union Discount Company of London. He has also been appointed a manager of the Union Discount Company of London.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	10 %
Barclays	10 %
BCCI	10 %
Consolidated Crds	10 %
C. Hoare & Co.	10 %
Lloyds Bank	10 %
Midland Bank	10 %
Nat Westminster	10 %
TSB	10 %
Williams & Glyn's	10 %

* 7 day average rate of base rate. Excludes 10% discount on overdrafts. 10% discount on overdrafts. 10% discount on overdrafts.



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ABOUT 754 ACRES

LOT 2: Period Farmhouse in superb rural position. 2 Cottages. Farmbuildings. Productive Farmland.

ABOUT 112 ACRES

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A MOST ATTRACTIVE AND COMPACT PERIOD FAMILY HOUSE IN A FINE EDGE-OF-VILLAGE POSITION

Hall, 3 reception rooms, large kitchen / breakfast room, cellar, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Gas-fired central heating.

2 Garages. Outside Garden Room. Party Walled Garden.

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London Office: 36 North Audley St., London, W1Y 2EL. Tel. 01-499 4785

Residential property/Baron Phillips

Whoever wins, buyers won't benefit

Home owners stand to get little from the election. No matter which way you vote, don't expect to see a package of reforms aimed at making home ownership any more attractive than it is already. In fact the election is likely to do just the opposite.

It does seem clear now that all the political parties will make inroads into at least some of the financial rewards which come with home ownership. Since the Conservative government was elected in May 1979 some of these advantages have already disappeared - with a little help from inflation.

During the pre-election scramble for votes last time, leading Conservatives, including Sir Geoffrey Howe, agreed that the mortgage tax threshold was too low at £25,000. They strongly hinted at an increase in this limit, which had been set in 1974.

Figures of £40,000 and £50,000 were bandied about, but since those heady days little happened until the last Budget. Finally, bending to pressure from house builders and the public alike, Sir Geoffrey raised the threshold to £30,000.

Unfortunately for this particular piece of legislation the timing of the election could not have been worse: to push through essential business before Parliament was dissolved.

The Government agreed to suspend parts of the Finance Bill and with it the extra tax relief.

If the Conservatives are returned on June 9, it is almost certain that they will reinstate the clause at the earliest opportunity. Anyway, tax codes have already been adjusted, so most taxpayers are already receiving the extra relief.

If either of the other parties is returned it is unlikely that a higher threshold will find its way on to the statute books. Such a move could herald an unprecedented examination of the whole private sector housing subsidy system.

Most home owners who pay tax at above the basic rate also receive relief on their mortgage interest at a higher rate. Within property circles it is now believed that all the parties, including the Conservatives, are looking at ways of abolishing this extra relief. This would mean everyone getting the same tax relief at the basic rate, currently 30 per cent.

Interestingly, this would hit the younger house buyer who invariably finds, especially in London and the South-east, that prices have risen so much over the last five years they have to take out larger mortgages. Older owners are affected less because they have usually been in the same house for some years, and they bought when prices

were low and therefore have a small mortgage.

Moves to restrict private sector housing subsidies are less harmful when interest rates are low, but throughout most of the last government's administration the cost of borrowing was extremely high, averaging about 13 per cent. Although present mortgage rates at about 10 per cent are regarded as being low, they are 50 per cent higher than six years ago.

Home owners are also unlikely to escape stamp duty, the punitive tax which hits those who move house. The last government raised the threshold at which stamp duty becomes payable from £15,000 to £25,000, but with average prices advancing to more than £27,000 an increasing number of people find they have to pay.

Various reforms of the system, aimed at lessening the burden, have been suggested but the Government has turned a deaf ear.

If Labour is returned on June 9, home owners and potential owners are likely to find the going tough because higher rates of tax relief are expected to be phased out fairly early on in the administration. More money would be pumped into the public sector and the "right to buy" scheme, successfully implemented by the Conservatives, quickly abandoned.

But a Labour government is more likely to look closely at the "monopoly" held by solicitors on conveyancing.

Although the SDP-Liberal Alliance is a less-known quantity, it is generally believed that it too would phase out higher rate relief for house owners, although there may be compensations in the form of higher tax thresholds to appease its mainly middle-class voters.

It is interesting to see how housing, especially private housing, has become an important election issue. Partly the Conservatives brought this on to themselves through their drive to encourage more people to become owner-occupiers. Through various pieces of legislation, for which the last government cannot take all the blame, more and more young people have been pushed into the market as first-time buyers. They would expect to be treated similarly to their parents when it comes to housing subsidies.

There is also the possibility that the abandonment of higher rate tax relief could dampen house prices, especially in the upper ranges. Buyers calculate the house they can afford based on the net cost of the mortgage, and if this is going to rise expectations will have to be lowered.

A housing estate with a difference

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Strutt & Parker
01-629 7282 13 Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London W1X 8LJ, and Regional Offices

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Joint Agents: H. H. MORRIS, Market Rasen, Lincs. (0529) 842223 Grimsby Office: 12 London Road (0476) 5866 (Ref: 4AB/2658).

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Hampton & Sons

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Joint Sole Agents: Edwards Wigmore & Bayley, Tel: 01-499 9452 and Hampton & Sons, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8222 and Mayfield Office. Tel. (0435) 672284.

GLoucestershire, NEAR NEWENT

Charming 17th Century house with original oak panelling to the Domesday Book. In excellent order throughout and surrounded by fertile pasture, in all about 50 acres, 3/4 reception rooms, utility, large kitchen, 7/8 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Oil central heating. Garaging. Beautiful garden with trout stream, useful outbuildings including older mill. Offers in the region of £175,000.

Sole Agents: Hampton & Sons, Cheltenham Office. Tel. (0242) 514848.

6 Arlington Street, St. James's, London SW1A 1RB

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Offers invited for the Freehold

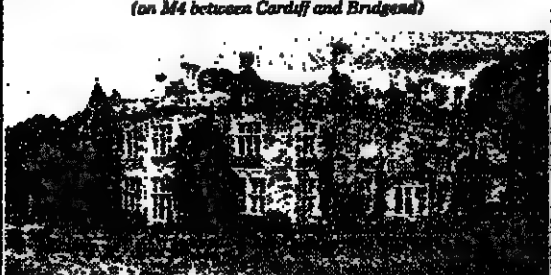
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Joint agents: John D. Wood, London. Tel: 01-629 9050 and Humberts, 10 St Mary Street, Chippingham. Tel: (0249) 855661 (0249) 704109/DMLB

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SAVILLS, 46 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. Tel: (031) 226 6961

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La crème de la crème

Secretary/PA to President

International Oil Services Company
St. James's Square, SW1.

Resulting from a promotion within the Enserch Corporation, the President of this substantial international oil service company is seeking a private secretary capable of controlling his office, based in the prestigious St. James's Square headquarters building.

This demanding, sometimes hectic job will require your full involvement in every aspect of day to day running of the office. The emphasis is on decision making, delegated responsibility and inter-personal skills.

In addition to impeccable secretarial, WP and admin standards, you will possess the maturity and organising ability to maintain control of a truly international workload.

An attractive starting salary will be negotiated. Candidates, preferably aged 28+, should write, enclosing C.V. and details of current salary to: Jack Scrutton, Director of Personnel, Associated Oilfields Inc., Enserch House, 8 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4JU.

OILTOOLS

I am currently holding several audio positions within companies in both the West End and City. I have a good knowledge of the oil industry and am experienced in the use of a dictaphone. I am a very efficient and reliable person. I am available for immediate employment. Please contact me on 01-493 1234.

KEEP YOUR COOL
I am a very efficient and reliable person. I am available for immediate employment. Please contact me on 01-493 1234.

THE FUTURE
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P/A SECRETARY to a world traveller

c£8,000 City of London

You will be working for the Chief Executive of the newly-opened London operation of an international organisation operating in the financial services markets.

As his assistant, you will be required to act on your own initiative during his frequent absence from the office. This will involve communicating with clients worldwide and coping with correspondence, travel, etc.

In addition to having first-class secretarial skills and being familiar with modern office practices, you must have the necessary personal qualities and confidence to meet business executives.

This is an extremely interesting but demanding job and presents a good opportunity for a person wanting to become totally involved in the company's activities. Knowledge of a European language would be an advantage but not essential. Preferred age, 28+. Please write in strict confidence enclosing C.V. and salary requirements for an application form, quoting reference 228, to Douglas Adams.

AMC Selection

Management and Recruitment Consultants
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Cosmetics to £7,500 + Excellent Benefits
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He'll be in safe hands while I'm away. I'm getting him a temporary from...
Senior Secretaries
CITY 01-493 1234 / WEST 01-493 1234
The first numbers to ring

Personal Assistant £8,000 + Fringe benefits

Unique position for top class PA to our Chairman / Designer to assist in all aspects of work in fashion company. If you are aged 28-30 attractive & with a super personality have a flair for administration & able to cope with pressure, then apply in writing with CV & recent photograph to Jane SACHA SHOES 351 OXFORD ST, LONDON W1

GOOD RELATIONS GROUP plc

Good Relations Group is Britain's leading Public Relations Consultancy. Following its continued success the Group has expanded rapidly, and a number of rare opportunities now exist for highly motivated and professional applicants to join this dynamic team. The Group has offices located in WC1, Covent Garden and the City. Vacancies exist in the following areas:

SENIOR SECRETARY
To work with one of the Company's Directors, an experienced self-starter with first-class secretarial skills is sought. Preference will be given to applicants with previous P.R. experience, however, more important will be the ability to demonstrate initiative and competence in coping with a demanding and varied workload in an often hectic but highly rewarding environment.

SECRETARY
To work as part of busy team in our Consumer Division. Well-educated with a minimum of 18 months secretarial experience, you should have fast, accurate typing of 60+ w.p.m., and shorthand of 100 w.p.m. Duties are varied and interesting with plenty of client contact and general account administration work, so strong organisational abilities are essential.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR
Is sought to augment our Central Administration Department. Applicants must have previous office administration experience with particular emphasis in the areas of property maintenance, office equipment purchasing, general insurance work and motor fleet maintenance. An ability for systems analysis and implementation is essential for this role.

RECEPTIONIST
This is a demanding and key position within the Group, and we seek a very special individual who, in addition to answering a busy switchboard (working with one other) has the confidence and maturity to deal with a multitude of different tasks associated with the efficient management of our reception area. Applicants will be expected to take a keen involvement in our business and must be well-spoken, personable and adaptable. Immaculate grooming is essential.

For further details please write enclosing a C.V. to: Julia Stevenson Good Relations Group plc, 15 Adelaide Place, London WC1B 3AJ Tel: 636-6561.



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SCOTTISH TELEVISION £10,000 + (London) PA/SECRETARY

Young Australian Executive Director of Scottish Television's Sales and Marketing operation and Managing Director of their subsidiary, Airtime International, requires entrepreneurial Personal Assistant/Secretary.

Well educated, flair for organising and communicating, groomed presentation with sound secretarial skills and aged between 25 and 34 years of age. The position will involve both UK and international travel.

For the position we offer an exciting working environment together with exceptional benefits including 5 weeks holiday.

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MARKETING DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY, ISLEWORTH

The Town Group Marketing Director seeks a secretary to help him and his staff in the marketing of their products. The team works closely with Architects, Surveyors and Property Developers, and the secretary will be involved in organising functions and preparing clients in addition to the usual secretarial duties. Must have typing speed of 60 wpm. Salary is negotiable according to age and experience. BSLPA company pension and profit sharing schemes available. Please send C.V. to James Hillier, Town Ltd, Town House, 177 Spring Grove Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

"The question of who has abolished a lord mayor has already been determined; not by us, but by a Conservative government."



The Watchman weighs a little over 1lb, has a two-inch screen, measures 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in

Had such an agreement seemed possible, Mrs Thatcher is thought to have been only too ready to go to Stuttgart to be seen accepting the deal.

It will not reach the Tower that soon, however, because the armour went on exhibition yesterday at Sutton Place, near Guildford, the Tudor manor house which used to belong to J.

Gladstone stared at us in full-length, varnished magnificence and had no comment. A fine statue of John Hampden thrusting out a sword pointed the way to the

That could have been a rather alarming reference to this aeroplane.

3 Used for healthy exercise - a
bolus perhaps? (8. 4).

SWORD PAGE 14

presentation at St Albans; and an Open Cockpit Day for children at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset.

Retail Price Index: 327.9.
London: The FT index closed up 4.5
at 675.6.

Deaths: Pierre de Beaumarchais, Paris, 1799; George Meredith, Box Hill, Surrey, 1909; Gustave Mahler, Vienna, 1911; Flag Day in Haiti.

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Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

Cape Town	f 18.61	London	c 17.83	Prague	s 23.73	Vladivostok	s 27.91
Chennai	f 20.88	Los Angeles	f 18.84	Rangoon	f 10.60	Warsaw	s 20.88
Chicago	f 16.61	Lyons	r 10.30	Rosario	s 23.73	Washington	f 14.57
Cologne	f 15.58	Mumbai	s 15.59	Singapore	c 34.65	Zurich	s 21.70

* denotes Monday's figures are latest available

[illegible]

Music
Concert by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.
Recital by Andrew Knights (soprano) and Jane Dodd (piano), County Museum, Daresbury, 8.
Concert by BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at the Festival of Spring Festivals, St Nicolas Parish Church, Newbury, 7.30.
Concert by Northern Sinfonia of England with André Bernard (trumpet), City Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, 7.30.
Recital by Stuart Johnson (violin) and Peter Fletcher (piano), Leicestershire School of Music, The Rowans, College Street, Leicester, 7.30.
Organ recital by Dr Peter Hurford, Norwich Cathedral, 7.30.

General
Collective sale of Georgian, Victorian and other furniture, and works of art, Barnes, Balshaw, Torquay, 10.

International Museums Day
Many museums and galleries are organizing special activities today for the annual event, including open days and exhibitions. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, president of the Museums Association, opens a new gallery at Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire; there will be a "musea in session" day at Stokely-on-Trent; a "Romans at Flinton" presentation at St Albans; and an Open Cockpit Day for children at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset.

Being on holiday away from home does not make you ineligible for a postal vote. No one can vote by post from overseas, and once a postal vote has been granted it is illegal to vote in person.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Rate	Rate
Australia \$	1.64	1.76
Austria Sch	25.40	26.60
Belgium Fr	39.75	75.75
Canada \$	1.97	1.89
Denmark Kr	14.28	13.48
Finland Mk	6.92	8.47
France Fr	11.56	11.36
Germany DM	9.56	3.78
Greece Dr	133.90	128.00
Hongkong \$	11.18	10.60
Ireland Pt	1.26	1.19
Italy Lira	2095.00	2265.00
Japan Yen	360	362.00
Netherlands Gld	4.47	4.25
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94
Portugal Esc	160.00	168.00
South Africa Rd	1.97	1.83
Spain Ptas	214.59	204.50
Sweden Kr	12.15	11.55
Switzerland Fr	3.21	3.13
USA \$	1.61	1.53
Yugoslavia Dnr	130.00	123.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Bank of England supply in traditional denominations and other foreign currency bureaux.

Retail Price Index: 327.9
 London: The FT index closed up 4.5 at 675.6.

Waterways Fortnight

The Inland Waterways Association, a pressure group for the retention and restoration of Britain's waterways, is promoting National Waterways Fortnight until May 30, to draw attention to leisure and commercial potential of the 3,000 miles of waterways in Britain. There will be walks, talks, exhibitions, boat trips, races, fairs and other events.

Further information can be obtained from the association on (011) 789 4055/6.

The papers

Those sociologists who have been torn between themselves over the collapse of civilization, can take a breather. No one is listening to them," the *Daily Express* says. A survey of attitudes shows that a big majority of the British people "still believe that love and marriage can go together like a horse and carriage."

Anniversaries

Birth: Joseph Pierre, theologian, Watten, Beckrische, 1692; Bertrand Russell, Earl Russell, Tavistock, Devon, 1872; Walter Gropius, architect, Berlin, 1883.

Death: Pierre de Beaumarchais, Paris, 1799; George Meredith, Box Hill, Surrey, 1909; Gustave Mahler, Vienna, 1911; Flag Day in England.

Lighting-up time

London 9.30 pm to 4.35 am
Edinburgh 9.50 pm to 4.47 am
Belfast 9.64 pm to 4.82 am
Manchester 9.57 pm to 4.58 am
Preston 9.35 pm to 5.07 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, centigrade; f, fahrenheit.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	14	57	Sturtevant	-7	19
Birmingham	13	55	Torquay	9	48
Bristol	14	57	Torrey	21	70
Cardiff	13	55	Walsingham	19	66
Chelmsford	13	55	Warrington	19	66
Edinburgh	8	46	Newcastle	20	68
Glasgow	10	50	Norwich	19	66

London

Yesterday's Temp.: max 8 km to 9 pm, 15 (59F); min 9 pm to 9 am, 10 (50F). Humidity, 90 per cent after rain, 80% to 90 per cent, 10.00-11.00 AM. Wind S.W. to N.E., 10-15 mph. Rain fell over 9 pm, 1.007-5.55 mm. Haze, 1.000 minutes—59.55 mi.

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp. Oxford, 19C (66F); lowest day temp. Torrington, SC (46F); highest rainfall, 1.000 in. 9.15-11.15 AM, 12.24, 12.52 PM, 1.000 in. Cromer, Douglas, 8.8 in.

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